

Israel detains two Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli military authorities on Monday detained two Palestinians from the occupied West Bank on charges of incitement and attacks against Israeli motor traffic. Said Muhammad Abu Al-Akrah, 19, and Ahmad Muhammad Saib Daoud, 18, were arrested for six months under "administrative detention," a policy dating from British-mandated Palestine. An army spokesman said Mr. Akrah said Mr. Daoud acted "to further the goals of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)." Both are residents of Dheishah refugee camp. About 50 West Bank Palestinians are currently being held under administrative detention, including six Dheishah residents arrested earlier this month.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز مؤسسة صحفية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والرأي

Coffee prices slashed

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Supply, Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher Monday issued a defence order reducing the prices of roasted and unroasted coffee by 300 fils per kilogramme, as of today. According to the new defence order, prices of 250 grammes of roasted and ground coffee will drop to 550 fils, 580 fils and 600 fils from 640, 670 and 690 fils, for the ordinary, semi-black and black coffee. The defence order stipulated that ground coffee should be from green coffee beans and that it be free from any other materials. The minister also issued a defence order reducing the price of locally produced roasted and ground coffee, packed in air-free containers from 710, 740 and 760 fils respectively to 620, 650 and 670 fils for the ordinary, semi-black and black coffee. The minister's decision was taken following a drop in the international price of coffee. On April 30, the government reduced prices of sugar and rice by 12.5 per cent, upon the directives of His Majesty King Hussein.

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King hosts iftar

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday hosted an iftar banquet at the Al Hussein Sports City. It was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akel Al Fayez and House members, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasbi, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, personalities from refugee camps, and heads of professional associations as well as directors of government departments.

Rifai to visit

Greece June 1-3

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai will pay an official visit to Greece June 1-3. Mr. Rifai's visit comes in response to an invitation extended to him by Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, who visited Jordan in November 1984. Mr. Rifai's visit is aimed at bolstering and developing the already excellent bilateral relations and to exchange views on issues of mutual concern. The prime minister will be accompanied by an official delegation.

Fahd meets Arafat

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabian King Fahd has held talks with Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported Monday. Mr. Arafat, currently touring Arab states, arrived in Riyadh Sunday night to discuss efforts aimed at narrowing Arab differences ready for a day-delayed Arab summit there this year. Mr. Arafat said earlier this month that a summit could convene by next September to discuss the Palestinian problem and to reach a unified Arab stand on ending the Iran-Iraq war.

Wazir not going to Damascus

SHARJAH (AP) — Khalil Wazir, deputy commander of the PLO, denied in an interview published Monday that he would soon go to Damascus to resolve a four-year feud between Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Barbie trial begins

LYON, France (R) — Former Gestapo officer Klaus Barbie, looking frail but smiling and relaxed, went on trial before the Lyon assize court on Monday accused of crimes against humanity allegedly committed in Lyon more than 40 years ago. Mr. Barbie was led into the dock in handcuffs shortly after Judge Andre Gerdin opened the trial.

India imposes direct rule on Punjab

NEW DELHI (R) — The Indian government imposed direct rule from New Delhi on Punjab on Monday and accused the state's moderate Sikh government of failing to counter separatist violence. A proclamation issued after a marathon cabinet meeting said the central government would take immediate control of the north-western state following a "breakdown of the law and order machinery." (See earlier story on page 5).

INSIDE

- Iranian threats may increase Kuwait's reliance on superpowers, page 2
- Crown Prince urges Forum Humanum to help youth development, page 3
- Historical truth and the Holy Land saga, page 4
- The independent classified its problems, page 5
- IOC allows tennis professionals into Olympics, page 6
- Egypt allows limited free exchange market, page 7
- Shultz-U.S. will benefit from nuclear pact, page 8

Israeli leaders hold inconclusive debate on peace conference

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli cabinet deadlocked on Monday at its first formal debate over a Middle East peace conference, with both sides in the ruling coalition refusing to budge and some officials predicting a government collapse.

A compromise on Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' plan for an international conference appeared "highly unlikely" after the four-hour meeting, said one official quoted by AP. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir bitterly opposes Israeli participation in such a conference.

The cabinet's 10-member decision-making forum, which is split evenly between the two major parties and debates some crucial issues on behalf of the full 25-member cabinet, scheduled a second discussion on the issue for Wednesday.

Legislators from Mr. Peres' Labour Party warned after the inner cabinet session that Israelis should expect to go to the polls this year, instead of in September 1988 as scheduled.

"We must be ready at any moment for new elections," said legislator Ora Namir.

But legislators from Mr. Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc said they opposed a government breakup and hoped some compromise was possible.

"The Likud feels the government still hasn't reached all its goals on the economy," said legislator Sarah Doron.

One compromise formula reported by the Israeli media called for the cabinet to give Mr. Peres approval to continue contacts without ratifying the international conference plan.

Another possible compromise would involve shifting to U.S. mediators the burden of negotiating terms of the conference.

The cabinet impasse appeared

to diminish chances that Mr. Peres would make a trip to Washington scheduled for Wednesday night, said his aides.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz sent Israeli leaders a letter on Monday urging them to advance peace but retaining opposition to Soviet involvement unless it renews ties severed with Israel 20 years ago and to the current representation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

In the letter, which Mr. Peres read out to the inner cabinet, Mr. Shultz said peace talks appeared "impossible without an international conference, and so this chance must be fully exploited," an official told AP.

Mr. Peres and Mr. Shamir formed an uneasy coalition government after 1984 elections gave neither leader enough votes to rule alone, but tension has risen since Mr. Peres turned over the premiership in October under a power-sharing pact and continued his efforts on behalf of an international conference.

Ministers declined to discuss

(Continued on page 3)

U.N. chief finds flexibility despite deep differences over peace talks

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Monday that "very deep differences" remain over the convening an international Middle East peace conference.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar added, however, that he detected greater flexibility among the prospective participants and he was encouraged by increased interest in the proposal for such a conference.

In a written report to the Security Council and the General Assembly on his exploratory consultations over the past two months, he said that for the first time no council member opposed a conference in principle.

The idea, proposed by the U.N. General Assembly, is being fiercely debated in Israel amid reports that discord within the coalition government could bring about new elections.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar's talks were with representatives of Jordan, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), as well as the 15 members of the Security Council — which would join such a conference.

"I am encouraged by the in-

creased interest on the part of the international community in the idea of a conference that would be convened under United Nations auspices on a basis acceptable to all," he said.

Wide differences still existed on the form a conference should take, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said.

"It was also generally agreed," he said, "that the positions of the parties themselves remained far apart on a number of issues of procedure and of substance but that in recent months there had been indications of greater flexibility in attitudes towards the negotiating process and that this should be encouraged."

"I am also encouraged by the indications of greater flexibility on this issue amongst the parties, since obviously their views are of crucial importance in this matter."

"At the same time, it is evident that very deep differences remain between the parties, and I do not underestimate the difficulties involved in resolving those differences and in creating agreement on procedures that will permit effective negotiations to the satisfaction of all concerned," he concluded.

"All the parties showed interest in a statement of the conflict in the Middle East, and some viewed it as a matter of great urgency," Mr. Perez de Cuellar said of his talks with the Middle East states and the PLO.

There seemed to be a general readiness to consider options for an acceptable negotiating formula, he added.

"While it is apparent from this first round of consultations that at present sufficient agreement does not exist to permit the convening of the international conference... I am determined to continue my efforts to establish a process that will lead to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East," Mr. Perez de Cuellar said.

Referring to his meetings with a number of Middle East leaders, he said all of them encouraged him to make a special effort to promote the start of negotiations.

Some weeks ago, an authoritative U.N. source said Mr. Perez de Cuellar was contemplating a tour of the area for talks on the subject in the belief that if there were no breakthrough this year, the presidential election campaign in the United States would freeze the question in 1988.

Rockets hit Beirut harbour as int'l airport reopens

BEIRUT (AP) — Four rockets exploded around Beirut's port on Monday as the capital's hijacked airport reopened for passenger traffic under tight Syrian security after a 99-day shutdown.

Police reported no casualties in the mid-morning shelling of the port, paralysed for more than two years by fighting between rival militias in Lebanon's civil war.

The flare-up coincided with talks in Damascus, between senior advisers of Lebanese President Amin Gemayel and Syrian government officials on ways to resolve Lebanon's political and economic crises.

The four Korean-made Grad rockets that hit Beirut's port destroyed a flour storage yard and shattered windows, police reported.

They said the Lebanese army was forced to close the Franciscan crossing between Beirut's mainly Muslim west and predominantly Christian eastern sectors for six hours because of sniper fire between the rival militias.

No casualties were reported in the gunfire. The crossing was also closed by gunfire Sunday.

The airport was closed Feb. 1 after two days of shelling in which a jetliner owned by Middle East Airlines (MEA), Lebanon's flag carrier, was destroyed.

The first plane to land at the

beachfront airport when it was declared open Sunday, was an empty MEA Boeing 707 from Larnaca, Cyprus, where the airline has kept most of its planes parked during the airport closure.

The first passenger-carrying plane to touch down was a MEA jet from Khartoum, Sudan, via Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, which landed at noon (0900 GMT) Monday. It carried 51 passengers.

Syrian paratroopers guarded all approaches to the airport. A platoon ringed the MEA jet after it touched down. Other troops were posted around the terminal building. Even the toilets were guarded.

Another MEA jetliner left for Paris at mid-afternoon with only 12 passengers on board, airport officials said.

There was no word from Syrian Arab Airlines and four Eastern bloc airlines, which used Beirut before the shutdown, on whether they will resume operations.

Western airlines have boycotted Beirut since extremists seized a TWA airliner a few days later, killing a U.S. navy diver and holding 39 passengers and crew members hostage for 17 days.

Since the civil war broke out in April 1975, Beirut airport has been closed 13 times for a total of 626 days.

McFarlane: Reagan was informed of contra aid campaign

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan was kept informed of efforts to arrange financial aid to Nicaragua's rebels after official U.S. assistance was outlawed and he once intervened with a Central American head of state to free a seized arms cargo for the rebels, former National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane said Monday.

Mr. McFarlane said he asked Mr. Reagan to intervene when an arms shipment was seized by a military official in a country near Nicaragua. The country was not identified and no date was given.

"Did you ask the president... to speak to the head of state of that country to make sure the contras (rebels) arms were released to them?" he was asked.

"Yes," Mr. McFarlane replied. "Was that successful?"

"Yes, it was a matter coordinated with the cabinet officers, too. But I would have said it was a message, but it may have been oral."

"And the arms were released to the contras?"

"I believe so, yes," Mr. McFarlane said.

The origin of the arms was not stated, but Mr. McFarlane described Mr. Reagan as pleased and satisfied with efforts by a foreign government to keep the contras going.

The White House said on Monday Mr. Reagan steadfastly supported the contras during the time that U.S. aid was illegal but insisted he had done nothing wrong.

Commenting on Mr. McFarlane's testimony, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater read a number of presidential statements on behalf of the rebels, whom Mr. Reagan calls "freedom fighters."

"He directed that we make continued efforts to bring the movement into the good graces of

(Continued on page 3)

Tindemans: Arabs favour joint Jordanian-Palestinian team

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans, on a European Community (EC) mission to the Middle East, said Monday that Arab countries favoured a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation at an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"With a mixed Jordanian-Palestinian delegation there could be contacts with the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) associated in a certain way..." Mr. Tindemans told a news conference at the conclusion of a two-day visit to Israel. He said this view in Jordan,

Egypt and Saudi Arabia could be reconciled with the EC's 1980 Venice Declaration which said the PLO should be associated with all moves for peace in the Middle East. "It says associated, not present. That is different," he said.

Mr. Tindemans, whose country now holds the rotating presidency of the 12-nation EC, restated the group's support of an international conference on the Middle East. Palestinian representation at the conference is considered a key issue since Israel has refused to deal with the PLO.

Mr. Tindemans, who visited

Amman, Cairo and Riyadh last month, said most Arab states believed that a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation could represent Palestinians and that the physical presence of the PLO was "considered an obstacle" to convening a conference.

"I heard in Amman, Cairo and even Riyadh that for them the Palestinians should be represented in a mixed Jordanian-Palestinian delegation," said Mr. Tindemans.

He said Jordan had been in contact with Syria about an international conference.

(Continued on page 3)

Voter turnout rises sharply at all registration centres

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (J.T.) — Figures on voter registration for parliamentary elections released Monday indicated a substantial rise in turnout all over the Kingdom, and signalled a turning point that is expected to continue through May 17, the closing date for registration.

Several elements including the extension of registration time by two hours a day, full-fledged electioneering and lobbying by candidates and their supporters, a higher public awareness level and a growing media campaign all appear to have contrived to create a stronger registration drive than witnessed during the first week.

Salt was at the top in terms of voter registration with 42,000 registered by closing time Monday, followed by Amman with 41,000, Zarqa with over 40,000, Madaba 21,102, Ajloun 17,000, Tafilah 10,020, South Shouneh 7,000. By closing time Monday, the rate of vote registration increase in most of the above areas was between 25 per cent and 60 per cent compared to the day before.

Governors all over the Kingdom led campaigns in their gov-

ernorates to encourage people to exercise their constitutional rights by registering themselves in the various centres.

Reports from Irbid said registration centres received an increasing number of citizens on Monday and Governor Akram Al Nasser toured these centres urging committees to facilitate registration of citizens within the legal limitations. There have been reports of delays in registration caused by errors in civil registration cards issued by the Civil Registration Department which are exclusively named by the government as the document for voter registration.

In Zarqa, Governor Eid Qataneh inspected progress at registration centres in his area and so did Governor Mujib Kheisha in Salt.

Mr. Kheisha said he expected a continued increase in turnout in the remaining six days of voter registration. He said the increase in turnout on Monday was "remarkable," and that the government's decision to extend the daily registration hours (now open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) was aimed at enabling a greater number of citizens to register, particularly employees.

In Al Qasr district in Karak,

Governor Fahim Nawaiseh said that nearly 70 per cent of citizens eligible to vote had already registered, while in Ghor Al Safi, Deputy Abdullah Karim Malahmeh, governor of the sub-district, said 80 per cent of eligible voters in his area had registered their names.

A "substantial increase" in turnout was also reported by Madaba district officer Rafeh Al Majali. Similar reports were received from the Naur sub-district, north and South Shouneh and the north Jordan Valley district.

A Jordan Times survey published on Monday showed that candidates and people working for them constituted a very important element giving rise to voter registration. Candidates and their supporters have been collecting civil registration books from citizens and doing the registration in their stead with the hope of influencing people's votes in the impending polls.

The survey also indicated that "the non-visibility of candidates" was seen as one of the elements behind the low-interest in registration, especially during the first week. People have also said that setting a date for the elections would have had a positive effect on the turnout.

Murphy warns Iran against attacking U.S. ships

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A senior American official on Monday warned Tehran against attacking U.S. ships in the Gulf just hours after Iran hit a third merchant vessel in eight days.

"We regard any attack on an American ship as a very serious affair," U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy told a news conference.

"We will do what is necessary to ensure the passage of our ships."

Mr. Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian affairs, said the United States supported freedom of navigation in the international waterway.

Tehran this year has stepped up attacks on vessels plying to Kuwait because the emirate backs Iraq in its war with Iran.

Consequently, Kuwait, which exports all its oil via the Gulf, is now negotiating with the United States to re-register 11 tankers under the American flag to gain the protection of patrolling U.S. warships.

Earlier on Monday an Indian tanker bound for Kuwait was hit by an Iranian patrol boat. It was the 20th attack blamed on Iran this year.

The gunboat struck the 89,453-tonne B.R. Ambedkar with bazookas in the fourth Iranian raid on shipping in the Gulf in six days, marine salvage executives reported.

The ship was hit four times at 5:30 a.m. (0130 GMT). It was the first Iranian attack on an Indian ship in the Gulf.

Mr. Murphy, in Baghdad as part of a Gulf tour, was asked what would happen if Iran attacked Kuwaiti tankers flying the American flag.

"These will not be Kuwait ships. They will be ships, which in order to carry the American flag,

will have to be owned by an American corporation. They will be ships which have been sold by Kuwait to this American corporation."

Iran's naval forces have stopped U.S. ships in the Gulf to check if they were carrying war material destined for Iraq. But none has been reported hit.

Mr. Murphy told reporters at the airport that his talks with President Saddam Hussein and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz were "useful and productive."

He added: "My government and the government of Iraq share the common goal of achieving peace, stability and progress for the Gulf region and we agree that the Gulf war... must end."

Mr. Murphy later arrived in Doha, Qatar. His current trip has also taken him Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Thatcher calls June 11 elections

LONDON (Agencies) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Monday called an early general election on June 11 in a bid for a record third consecutive term that would make her Britain's longest-serving leader this century.

The 61-year-old leader — buoyed by her Conservative Party's strong showing in opinion polls and local elections as well as signs of an economic upswing — met her cabinet and visited Queen Elizabeth with a former request to dissolve parliament.

The government then announced that the queen, who is head of state, "has been graciously pleased to signify that she will comply with this request."

The 650-seat House of Commons, in which the ruling Conservatives hold a majority of nearly 140 seats, will be dissolved on Monday to pave the way for three weeks of campaigning.

The election date means that Mrs. Thatcher will be on the world stage at the Venice seven-nation summit from June 8-10 on the eve of voting. Officials said she would definitely attend the meeting but return early.

The new parliament will be summoned on June 17, and the state opening by the queen will be on June 25, the government said. The announcement ended weeks of speculation heightened by a series of polls showing the Conservatives with a comfortable lead over the Labour Party and the centrist alliance.

It followed a meeting between Mrs. Thatcher and her closest advisers at the prime minister's country residence on Sunday as an opinion poll gave the Tories 44 per cent of the vote, an 11-point lead over Labour.

No clear result is expected for at least a week.

Ramon Felipe, the chairman

Tension and optimism prevail as Filipinos vote

MANILA (R) — Millions of Filipinos voted democracy back into their troubled country on Monday, electing a new two-chamber congress in an atmosphere of optimism tinged with tension.

Nerves were stretched by a series of poll-linked incidents on Monday in which eight people were killed, a booby-trapped ballot box exploded injuring a woman election volunteer and her daughter, a radio station transmitter was bombed and communist rebels made several raids.

With ballots from around the country not yet collected and the counting still to come, political analysts warned that the Philippines' first genuinely free vote in 15 years was still vulnerable.

The left, contesting an election for the first time since 1946, complained before polling opened of harassment in some areas.

The military accused communist guerrillas of stealing ballot boxes in several areas.

In an election eve incident late Saturday, two campaigners for independent congressional candidate Joseito Lim were reported killed.

But as polls closed after nine hours, the vote to end one and a half decades of rule by presidential decree was hailed as a triumph.

Invoking the spirit of the "people power" revolution 15 months ago which ended the 20-year rule of Ferdinand Marcos, a senior military spokesman called the vote "a real manifestation of what we fought for."

"This is the first real and meaningful expression of the people's aspirations," Philippine constabulary spokesman Major Cris Maralit told reporters.

Election officials predicted final tallies would show a 90 per cent turnout of the country's 26.4 million voters, more than half of whom were taking part in the full democratic process for the first time.

(Continued on page 3)

Reagan knows more on Iran-contra scandal than he admits — senator

WASHINGTON (R) — The chairman of the U.S. congressional committee probing the Iran-contra scandal has said enough had been heard so far to conclude President Reagan knew more than he had so far acknowledged.

"Up until now the president has rather adamantly insisted that he had absolutely no knowledge. I think that as the testimony develops... it will show that the president in fact did know a few things more than he says he did," Senator Daniel Inouye told ABC Television.

Sen. Inouye, a Hawaii Democrat, was commenting on the first week of hearings by joint Senate and House of Representatives committees into the sale of arms to Iran and the use of some of the proceeds, as well as private donations, to help arm contra rebels battling Nicaragua's government.

President Reagan has said that he knew only of private fundraising efforts for the contras and believed they were only to raise money for non-military purposes.

The only witness in the congressional hearings so far has been retired Maj.-Gen. Richard Secord, who was deeply involved in both ends of the operation but said he had no direct knowledge of what the president knew.

The hearings were expected to

resume Monday with evidence from former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, who quit his White House post in December 1985 shortly after U.S. arms sales to Iran began but continued to play a key role in the clandestine operation.

He attempted suicide in February this year, because he said he felt he had failed his country. "I think we have got enough to suggest to the people of the United States that the president of the United States was a bit more knowledgeable than what he professes to publicly," Sen. Inouye said.

New Hampshire Republican Senator Warren Rudman, vice chairman of the Senate committee, said it was quite obvious Mr. Reagan was aware that foreign countries were contributing money being used to buy arms for the contras.

"What is not obvious yet is what the president knew about the diversion (of Iran arms sales proceeds to the contras). That will become obvious one way or

the other sometime during the next month," he said.

Sen. Rudman said if the president knew specifically it was a scheme to take U.S. weapons, mark them up roughly double, and divert the money to buying weapons for the contras, "that would be very serious."

"Sen. Inouye said it would 'tarnish the president's image' if Mr. Reagan, as reported Sunday in the New York Times, gave a blanket order for his National Security staff to arrange help for the contras without saying how this should be done."

The newspaper said Mr. McFarlane's testimony is expected to lead support "to the growing belief among investigators that the president was far more aware of the contra support programme than he was admitted."

Under a law called the Boland Amendment, the U.S. government was barred sending military aid to the Nicaraguan rebels during this period.

Gen. Secord, who worked closely with National Security Council aide Lt.-Col. Oliver North, insisted during the congressional hearings that his operation was a private undertaking. Sen. Rudman strongly disputed this Sunday, however, saying: "I

think he was an agent of the government."

"He received his initial instructions from (White House security adviser) Admiral (John) Poindexter, he was continually controlled by Col. North. The surpluses that he generated were generated from the sale of United States assets. Of course he was an agent of the United States government," Sen. Rudman said. Sen. Inouye concurred.

Appearing on CBS Television, Oklahoma Democratic Senator David Boren, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee and a member of the Iran-contra probe, said Gen. Secord did not want to admit to being an agent of the government because if he did, "he involved himself in a conspiracy to spend government funds for a prohibited purpose."

Asked what law was broken, Sen. Boren said: "It's theft. If David Boren took property of the government and sold it and didn't return all the money back to the taxpayers, I would have stolen that part that I kept."

Sen. Boren said there was no doubt Gen. Secord was heavily involved in making major decisions on foreign policy, adding: "It's a very dangerous thing to go down the slippery slope of trying to get around the law."

Peres denies Israel sent messages to Arafat, Qadhafi

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Monday denied Israel sent secret messages through Malta to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

He told Israel Radio that Maltese Prime Minister Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici made the assertion last week in hopes of improving his chances in a closely-fought national election campaign on the Mediterranean island.

"He was going into elections and wanted to describe Malta as the centre of world," Mr. Peres said.

Mifsud Bonnici told foreign reporters last week that Israel had reversed its previous disapproval of Malta's Arab links. He said he personally told secret Israeli messages to the Arab leaders over two months but the response was discouraging.

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Ehud Gol told Reuters on Saturday: "We deny the report totally and categorically."

Mr. Peres said Monday he met Mifsud Bonnici over a cup of coffee at a Socialist International meeting in Rome last month, where Mr. Peres was promoting the idea of an international Middle East peace conference. He said he gave the Maltese leader no messages.

Iran's threats may harden Kuwait's reliance on Moscow, Washington

KUWAIT (R) — An Iranian warning to Kuwait to drop plans to export its oil on ships flying Soviet and U.S. flags may harden the emirate's reliance on Moscow and Washington, diplomats said Monday.

"I suspect the intimidation, verbal and otherwise, may reinforce Kuwait's desire to co-opt such help," one said.

Iran, angered at Kuwait's decision to suffer for what it called the emirate's bid to turn the region into an arena of East-West rivalry.

Tehran has embarked on what a diplomatic source called a vendetta against Kuwait over its backing for Iraq. Of 20 attacks on Gulf shipping blamed on Iran this year, maritime sources say at least 16 have targeted vessels linked with Kuwait.

This excludes the Soviet freighter *Ivan Koroteyev*, which Moscow said was hit by unidentified patrol boats last Wednesday in what appears to be the first strike at a superpower vessel.

It was hit in the middle of the Gulf, in an area of several previous attacks linked to Iran, while heading for the Saudi Arabian port Dammam from Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

He said that in order to fly the American flag, Kuwait would have to sell its tankers to a U.S. corporation.

Political sources said Kuwait was expected to register vessels under the umbrella of KPC (U.S. Holdings) Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of the state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corporation set up after Kuwait brought the U.S. Santa Fe drilling and exploration firm in 1981.

Iran's national news agency (IRNA) Monday reported Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi as saying Kuwait would

"eventually fall a victim to its own mischiefs of turning the Gulf region into a centre of East-West rivalry."

The agency also quoted Revolutionary Guards Minister Mohtasham Rahnghoush Sunday as warning "warned Gulf states trying to fly the superpower flags on their ships that Iran will decisively thwart any act of mischief in the region."

Britain and France as well as the Soviet Union and the United States also have warships on patrol in or near the Gulf.

Kuwait's official news agency hinted Sunday the emirate might favour an even broader defence umbrella for Gulf shipping in the form of a United Nations peacekeeping force.

"The shelling of the Soviet ship has started to raise serious questions by some international quarters about the proposal presented (in January) by some international shipping concerns to form a U.N. naval force to provide protection for commercial ships in the Gulf," it said.

"In the light of the latest attack, it is not unlikely that the big powers would support the idea for endorsement by the U.N.," it said in unsecured comment included in a review of the threat to Gulf navigation.

The chairman of the International Chamber of Shipping in London, Sir Adrian Swire, said in January shipping officials had asked the United Nations to consider a U.N. "naval peace-keeping force in the Gulf which would take the form ... of convoying ships in."

U.S. Jews launch barrage of criticism at Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — American Jews have aimed a barrage of criticism at Israel following the Pollard spy affair and the Iran arms scandal, breaking with a long tradition of keeping differences within the family.

The most strident controversy has been over the case of U.S. navy intelligence analyst Jonathan Jay Pollard, the first Jew ever convicted of spying for Israel. Many American Jews felt Pollard's recruitment put them on the spot, raising questions of loyalty to two countries.

"American Jewry has had a cold shower, and they are lashing back in anger," said Simon Wiesenthal, a writer for New Republic magazine who spoke in Israel during one of a recent series of public debates and seminars on Israeli-Jewish ties.

The criticism began in March, when 30 Jewish leaders came to Israel to plead in person with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to make amends to the administration of President Ronald Reagan and punish those responsible for the scandals.

Israel had initiated investigations into both the Iran arms affair and the Pollard case. But the proceedings were secret, and many of those involved escaped censure. This left an impression that top officials were more interested in covering up responsibility than in exposing the wrongdoers.

Prominent U.S. Jews, disappointed and embarrassed by what some termed Israel's high-handed attitude, made angry denunciations at home and abroad.

One such critic was Abraham Foxman, associate national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

"The Pollard affair went to the essence of a relationship between American and Israeli Jews which had been built on mutual trust," he said in an interview in Israel.

"We've never gone public in criticising Israel like this before. When we've disagreed, we've done so privately, but we found the Pollard situation required us to speak out publicly."

"Israel has acted too cavalierly, and may have undermined our ability and credibility to be supportive of it in the United States," he added.

Foxman and other Jewish leaders predicted they could now have more trouble openly supporting Israel-related issues before the U.S. Congress and that Jewish professionals might be more closely scrutinised about their loyalties before being granted security clearances.

Congressional support has been a key factor in making Israel the largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid, which totalled \$3 billion in military and economic grants this year.

In addition, American Jews, who at 6 million are the world's largest Jewish community, have contributed a half-billion dollars a year in cash and purchases of government bonds since 1975.

Israeli analysts say the controversy after the Pollard case was really a part of the long friction between American Jews and the Jewish state.

"There has been a most serious

weakening of ties with Israel in recent years," said political scientist Gabriel Sheffer of Hebrew University.

In addition to Israel's recruitment of an American Jew to spy, the Israeli government left the impression it was conspiring with the Reagan administration to circumvent Congress by acting as a middleman in the Iran-contra affair.

Other issues that have put Israel at odds with U.S. policy were the 1982-85 invasion of Lebanon and the 20-year occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip with its 1.4 million Arabs.

A survey published by the American Jewish Committee last month in New York showed 72 per cent of 1,133 Jews under 40 who were questioned said they believed Israel deserved public criticism.

Another sign of trouble, according to Sheffer, is that the largest Jewish fundraiser for Israel, the United Jewish Appeal, sends Israel 40 per cent of what it collects, compared with 90 per cent a decade ago.

"If the process is allowed to continue, there is the danger of the gap between us growing and creating a tragic rupture," Economic Affairs Minister Gad Yacobi wrote in a newspaper column.

Some Israelis, insulted by the public fray, have struck back defensively.

One of the most outspoken is Shlomo Avineri, a former director-general of the Foreign Ministry and a political science professor at Hebrew University.

He said the half-billion dollars in annual contributions is only a tiny fraction of a state budget that exceeds \$20 billion. "This is poisoning our relationship, this 'schmorrer' (yiddish for beggar) syndrome. It creates a false dependency."

Avineri raised a longstanding sore point with American Jewry over their failure to leave the good life and emigrate to the Jewish state. Only about 60,000 U.S.-born Jews live in Israel.

Analysts do not believe American Jews will back away from their support for Israel, but Sheffer said they may start demanding more of a say. "For too long there's been an asymmetric relationship. If they're going to carry a state on their back, they have to have their say," said Sheffer.

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The type-written statement, bearing Sunday's date, carried the logo of Abu Nidal's group and conformed to the style of its

Vanuatu bans visits of Australian ships over Libya statements

PORT VILA (R) — Vanuatu Monday announced a ban on visits by Australian warships and aircraft as relations between the two countries deteriorated over the South Pacific island nation's growing links with Libya.

Prime Minister Walter Lini, in a statement, said the move reflected "extreme displeasure" over Australian intelligence activities against his nation, formerly the Anglo-French territory of New Hebrides.

Mr. Lini dismissed Australian concern over the Libyan connection as a "non-issue."

He charged that Australian intelligence had been interfering in Vanuatu's domestic affairs.

"Vanuatu, as a sovereign state, will strongly oppose these types of covert activities whether they be from Australia or any other foreign state," he said.

"It is a fundamental foreign policy principle that Vanuatu is defending," said Mr. Lini, an Anglican priest who has been at the helm of the island group since independence in 1981.

Mr. Lini also criticised a hastily arranged meeting between Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden and New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange two weeks ago to discuss the Vanuatu-Libyan link.

Australian naval ships and military aircraft have made regular visits to Vanuatu as part of their South Pacific patrol duties. The Australian flag ship *Stawart*, accompanied by two patrol boats, was due to visit Port Vila next week.

Officials here said, however, the defence cooperation agreement between the two nations was not likely to be affected immediately.

About a dozen Australian servicemen are in Vanuatu as advisers to Vanuatu's Paramilitary Forces and about 30 Vanuatu servicemen are in Australia

undergoing military training. Mr. Lini welcomed the planned visit of Australian Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs David Sadler later this week and said the discussions would include the Libyan question and Australian intelligence activities.

Mr. Lini said Vanuatu and Australia had a mature relationship that would be normalised "once certain understanding has been established."

Vanuatu established diplomatic relations with Libya last year claiming that the act was part of its non-aligned policy.

Tripoli has yet to open a mission here. But Australian officials have expressed concern that Libya may use Vanuatu as a base to support dissident groups in the region, particularly the French territory of New Caledonia.

About a dozen Vanuatu government leaders have visited Tripoli in recent months, some for military training. Australian officials say Libya has offered large-scale investments and trade to the financially troubled island state.

Meanwhile New Zealand on Monday distanced itself from Australian concern about relations between Libya and Vanuatu, and said Tripoli had a legitimate interest in the region.

Prime Minister David Lange told reporters that French-ruled New Caledonia would be the

source of any instability threatening regional stability.

Mr. Lange said a New Zealand diplomat began a visit to Port Vila on Thursday while another had met Vanuatu's foreign minister when he passed through Auckland on his way to Europe.

"The outcome has been very satisfactory" (the meetings were) to convey the New Zealand government's position rather than some of the reporting that has emerged from Australia," Mr. Lange said.

He said it was absolutely one of the question, as far as Wellington was concerned, for the 13-nation South Pacific Forum to discuss Vanuatu's domestic policies when it met in Western Samoa at the end of the month.

"We also wanted to convey to them (Vanuatu) that we had a concern about intrusions from arms," the view of New Zealand is that it is a process which should be watched but it is sustainable.

Mr. Lange said New Caledonia, where indigenous Melanesian Kanaks seek independence from France, would be the dominant topic at the forum.

"Libya has a legitimate interest in the region," Mr. Lange added, noting that Tripoli had diplomatic missions in Kuala Lumpur and Canberra, with the Canberra envoys accredited to New Zealand.

Group warns U.S. against extraditing Palestinian

BEIRUT (R) — The Palestinian Abu Nidal group has warned the United States against extraditing to Israel a Palestinian wanted for killing a bus driver and wounding three people there last year.

"We warn the American judicial authorities of the consequences of handing over any Palestinian to the Zionist state," the Fateh Revolutionary Council of Abu Nidal said in a statement delivered to an international news agency.

The type-written statement, bearing Sunday's date, carried the logo of Abu Nidal's group and conformed to the style of its

previous statements.

It said the United States would bear responsibility if Mahmoud Atta, an alleged gunman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), was extradited to Israel "no matter what the judicial arguments are."

"The American administration is going too far in interfering in our struggle against the Zionist enemy. It has therefore to bear the consequences," the statement added.

Atta, emigrated to Puerto Rico and became a naturalised U.S. citizen in 1982.

TV & RADIO

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RJ head wins medal from aerospace group

CAIRO (Petra) — The Cairo-based World Aerospace Organisation (WAO) has decided to award Mr. Ali Ghandour, chairman of the board of Royal Jordanian (RJ), a medal for merit in recognition of his distinguished efforts in promoting air navigation, education and supporting airline companies in developing countries through his presidency of an International Air Transport Association (IATA) programme.

meeting in Orlando, Florida, in recognition of his services to aviation at the international and national levels.

He also noted the impact of a lecture series Mr. Ghandour delivered throughout the world to promote the awareness of aviation issues, thus furthering one of the organisation's major goals.

The medal, Mr. Najib added, will be presented to RJ chairman during the 5th international conference on aerospace education which will be held in Singapore in July.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bulgarian ambassador denies persecution

AMMAN (Petra) — Bulgarian Ambassador to Jordan Yantcho Danyev Monday dismissed as baseless the rumours circulating that Muslims in Bulgaria are being persecuted and stressed his government's interest in safeguarding the rights of Muslims in his country. During a meeting with Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, held at the ministry, conditions of Muslims in Bulgaria were discussed on Monday, as well as condition of Bulgarian Muslim students currently studying at the University of Jordan's Sharia (Islamic law) faculty at the expense of the ministry.

Egyptian bank delegation due May 18

AMMAN (Petra) — An Egyptian bank delegation is due here on May 18. During the visit, the delegation will meet with concerned Jordanian officials to discuss the new free banking market and will also meet with the Egyptian community in Jordan.

Haj arrangements being discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Monday discussed with the Pilgrimage Affairs Committee at the ministry issues pertaining to Haj arrangements for this year. The committee reviewed the requests made by some companies, to transport pilgrims to Mecca. The committee also decided to open the door for registration for the current Haj season, as of Ramadan 20.

Iraq, Jordan to build industrial base

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Iraqi Minister of Light Industries Hatem Abdul Rashid has said that Iraq looks forward to building a joint industrial base with Jordan. Mr. Rashid pointed out that the Jordanian-Iraqi Industrial Company can serve as a nucleus for this joint industrial base. Mr. Rashid said that Iraq welcomes Arab investors, and particularly Jordanian one.

Committee to draw local councils' plan

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yusef Hamdan Al Jabr has decided to set up a committee to draw up a plan for projects which will be carried out by municipal and village councils in the Kingdom according to their needs, financial situation, and the priorities of these projects.



Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath meet with members of the Jordan Forum Humanum at its board meeting held at the Public Security Department's officers

club on Monday night. To the Crown Prince's left is Dr. Kamel Ajlouni, president of Jordan University of Science and Technology (Petra photo).

Jordan becomes official member of United Way charity society

By Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Jordan has recently been admitted to membership of the United Way international organisation as a full-fledged member. President of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Abdullah Khatib said on Monday.

In a telephone interview, Dr. Khatib, who has just returned from the United Way international conference, recently concluded in Britain, said that the Jordanian delegation presented a report on Jordan's activities in the field of voluntary work. The report was received enthusiastically by the conference, he added. The report highlighted the important role the voluntary sector plays in Jordan.

Speaking about the conference, Dr. Khatib said it dealt with the future plans for social endeavours in the developed and developing countries. The United Way organisation, which was formed ten years ago with the main office in the United States, seeks to enhance cooperation among the various organisations, bodies, and institutions, concerned with social and voluntary work, Dr. Khatib said.

He added that the organisation's main objective is to partici-



Abdullah Khatib

pate in fund raising efforts worldwide in order to help finance social activities in many countries.

The conference is held once every three years. The next conference will be held in Singapore, and will concentrate on issues pertaining to problem-solving and other related subjects within the field of voluntary work, Dr. Khatib said.

Two years ago, a delegation from the United Way visited Jordan to look at the Jordan's work in the field of voluntary work. The delegation described Jordan's efforts as "one of the most sophisticated experiences in the

field of voluntary activities," the GUVS president said.

Dr. Khatib added that the Jordanian experience in the social and voluntary work fields was a model to the other developing countries, which took part in the conference.

On the Jordanian delegation's activities, Dr. Khatib said they discussed with other delegations the sharing of expertise to benefit each other's efforts. Such talks, Dr. Khatib noted, have enhanced Jordan's access to the training opportunities available in other countries in the fields of social needs assessment, referral, and research and documentation.

Taking part in the conference were delegates representing 17 countries including Jordan, United States, Britain, China, Japan, Jamaica, India, Singapore, Belgium and others. Jordan was the only Arab country to attend the conference, Dr. Khatib noted.

Jordan's delegation to the meetings comprised Mr. Sami Khasawneh, GUVS secretary, Father Constantine Qurnush, GUVS treasurer and Dr. Mohammad Al Suqour, member of the GUVS executive board and director of the National Aid Fund.

Crown Prince urges forum to assist youth development

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan urged the Jordan Forum Humanum (JFH) to double its efforts and promote its role in the coming stage of the country's development, and to intensify its contacts with students and youth movements in the Kingdom.

Prince Hassan also emphasised the important role which JFH can play in shaping the experiences of Jordanian youth and in reflecting a true image of Jordan through their activities.

The Crown Prince was speaking in the presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, at a meeting of JFH board members held at the Public Security Department's officers club in Amman on Sunday evening.

He said that Jordan should give due attention to the quality of higher education and should

work to create jobs for graduates. At present, there are nearly 1,000 Jordanian college graduates working for American universities, and many of them want to return to Jordan and find employment here, Prince Hassan pointed out.

The Crown Prince said that Jordanian universities are now formulating ideas for encouraging creativity among students to help them carry on with their work and research. Universities have a role to play in supporting JFH activities and programmes.

Prince Hassan said. He cited an offer by the Jordan University of Science and Technology to organise a summer camp for the JFH members. In his speech, Prince Hassan referred to the Crown Prince's Award which he described as a way to encourage promising students to double their efforts in the fields of public service, intellectual exploration, social endeavours, and sports activities.

'Earnest' production that 'Wilde wouldn't be too ashamed of'

By Meg Abu Hamdan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "The Importance of Being Earnest" is perhaps one of the best known plays in the English language and certainly one of the wittiest. Although it was written over 90 years ago, it remains as fresh and entertaining and as relevant as if it were written yesterday.

It was for this reason that the local amateur theatrical group, the Amman Players, chose to stage it, the play's opening night being Wednesday, May 13, at the Royal Cultural Centre. Directing the play is Andy Murphy who took over the job from the group's founder, Pat Pengilly who left Jordan earlier this year.

"I've enjoyed directing the play tremendously," Mr. Murphy told the Jordan Times. "It's been great fun and something I would never have had the chance to do in England. As it is my first experience at directing, I've been open to suggestions and the cast, especially David Thompson, have been very helpful with lots of good ideas."

Along with a production team of Aylette Vilemain, Syd Halder, Rudi Habbash and Sue

Spice, and with the cast which includes Rachel Garrard as Gwendolen, Julia McKelvey as Cecily, Tony Parsons as Jack Worthing, Paul Spice as Algernon Moncrieff, David Thompson as Dr. Chasuble, Bridget Claire as Lady Bracknell and Erica Wilson as Miss Prism, Andy Murphy hopes that they have finally put together a play that "Wilde wouldn't be too ashamed of."

The play, which was first produced in London on Feb. 14, 1895, is a clever comedy of manners with a plot that is as delightfully absurd as the speeches. It centres around Jack Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff who both need to get away from their normal environments.

They thus both develop the same stratagem. Jack, who lives in the country, invents a scapegrace brother Ernest in London as an excuse for getting to town and away from the decorum he must assume for the benefit of his young ward Cecily, while Algernon in London, has invented an invalid friend, Bunbury, in the country as an excuse for avoiding tiresome social affairs in town.

Jack, a founding reared by a wealthy patron, is in love with Gwendolen, daughter of Algernon's

formidable aunt, Lady Bracknell. Gwendolen, who knows Jack as Ernest, returns his affection and they become engaged. Algernon, having learned Jack's country address, goes there and passes himself off to Cecily as Ernest Worthing. As the plot becomes more absurd, the play becomes an intricate parody of the misadventures of a wicked-nurse, mistaken-identity themes of Victorian melodrama and all that is taken seriously, from birth to death, is amusingly turned upside down.

In order to keep a strong sense of the Victorian era, the costumes have been made to resemble as closely as possible those worn in the period, some having been drawn from Paul and Sue Spice's collection of Victorian memorabilia, are indeed genuine.

Tickets at JD 3, and at reduced rates for students, are available from the Royal Cultural Centre. Proceeds from the play, which is being held under the patronage of Her Highness Sharifa Zein Nasser, will go to the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped. Performances of the play can be seen on May 13-16 at 9 p.m. in the Studio Theatre.

Tindemans: Arabs favour joint team

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Tindemans also said the Soviet Union had become more flexible about the composition and role of the international conference.

In his news conference on Monday, Mr. Tindemans restated the EC's support for the conference and said the Soviet Union had become more flexible about the composition and role of the proposed forum.

"We have the impression out of our last contacts with the Soviet Union that they have been a little bit more flexible in the idea of the conference," said Mr. Tindemans, adding there was no agreement yet.

The Soviets, he said, had originally insisted that the full conference have the power to impose solutions, if an impasse was reached and to veto agreements made separately between the parties.

Despite indications of progress on the procedural issues, Mr. Tindemans said repeatedly he was unable to say if there was a realistic chance of convening an international conference.

One reason, he suggested, was

the lack of agreement between Israeli Foreign Minister Peres, who has campaigned for acceptance of the conference, and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who has opposed the idea.

"It is up to the Israeli people and the government," said Mr. Tindemans, apparently alluding to the possibility of early national elections in Israel on the peace issue.

He said that he had discussed with leaders in the area the possibility of holding an economic conference parallel to the political one. But he said questions remained as to its proposed composition and role.

Mr. Tindemans said he would report later this month to the European Community and the council would determine the next step.

Mr. Tindemans said that during two days in Israel, Mr. Shamir restated his stand that he was opposed to a conference, preferring direct, bilateral talks with the Arabs.

Mr. Tindemans met a 10-member delegation representing Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israelis hold inconclusive debate

(Continued from page 1)

the inner cabinet meeting and Mr. Peres refused to say if the debate would prompt him to postpone his trip to Washington. He has already put off a visit to Argentina and Uruguay this

month. About 100 teenage youths wearing the blue shirts of Labour-affiliated socialist youth groups demonstrated at the prime minister's office in favour of a conference. A few metres away, dozens of right-wingers held a counter-demonstration.

McFarlane: Reagan was informed

(Continued from page 1)

Congress and the American people and that we assure the contras of continuing administration support — to help them hold body and soul together — until the time when Congress would again agree to support them," Mr. McFarlane said.

Mr. McFarlane said the State Department had not wanted to be associated with a covert action. "But the president had made clear that he wanted a job done. The net result was that the job fell to the National Security Council," Mr. McFarlane said.

Mr. McFarlane opened his testimony on Monday — the beginning of the second week of the joint House of Representatives and Senate probe — by saying

Mr. Reagan ordered White House staff to assure the contras of administration support after Congress banned U.S. aid.

But, in his 12-page opening statement he read before responding to questions, Mr. McFarlane said the administration relied too heavily on covert operations and Congress had sent contradictory signals about its own views on the contras.

The result was a "confused and contradictory policy," Mr. McFarlane said. "The policymakers who create conditions like this must bear some of the moral responsibility for the failures that follow," he declared.

Mr. McFarlane, a taciturn former Marine, attempted suicide last February because of what he said was stress.

Murphy warns Iran

(Continued from page 1)

The Iraqi News Agency said Mr. Murphy handed President Hussein a letter from President Ronald Reagan during a meeting Monday. It said the message dealt with Gulf war developments and U.S. efforts at the U.N. Security Council to bring an end to the hostilities.

Mr. Murphy had met with Mr. Aziz Sunday night shortly after he flew in from the UAE.

Relations between the United States and Iraq were strained when the scandal of clandestine American arms sales to Iran broke last year.

In Bahrain, American Ambassador Sam Zakhem said the United States would be willing to consider a multi-national naval force, possibly including the Soviet Union, to protect shipping in the Gulf.

"It is my belief that my government would welcome peace-loving nations like Britain and France and whoever would like to play a constructive role," he told Reuters.

Asked if this could include the Soviet Union, since one of its cargo vessels was attacked by Iranian speedboats on May 6, he said: "If the Soviets want to play a constructive role, I believe my government would probably welcome that."

The International Chamber of Shipping in London asked the United Nations in January to consider forming a peacekeeping force to escort convoys in the Gulf.

In his Baghdad press conference, Mr. Murphy also said the United States believes an international conference on the Middle East will lead to direct Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

He said Washington believes the "instrument for comprehensive peace in the area should be bilateral face-to-face negotiations between parties that have been absorbed in a state of belligerency for the last several decades."

He said: "We are not enthusiastic to fully support the concept that the international conference is the way... we seriously consider the international conference as leading quickly to face-to-face negotiations."

First soup kitchen tries to fill gap in aid for needy

By Nermeen Murad Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's economic slowdown is leaving its mark on society, and wherever one goes on hears complaints about people not being able to afford things that were easily acquired before. Everyone is sitting around discussing the implications of this declining economic state.

A group of ten businessmen, led by Mr. Na'im Qa'dan, broke out of this circle of 'all talk and no action' and went out and established the first *tekiah* in Jordan.

Tekiah is a Turkish term describing what is known in modern terms as a soup kitchen. The main aim of such a centre is to provide food for families who have trouble finding a decent meal that they can afford. The first in Jordan, the *tekiah* centre, recently opened in Al Hussein camp, fills the gap which the government and UNRWA has not yet filled. Both institutions have so far catered for the indigent in Jordan; but the number of

needy is rising to include the middle classes who have suddenly found themselves jobless and moneyless.

"If you really look around for the needy in Jordan, you would find one thousand rare stories, all of which you could make into a soap opera," said Mr. Qa'dan, director of the Amman Tekieh Centre. People have always recognised the poor as those who have no money, no homes, no food, he said, but with the current economic problems, a new type of people have emerged who are also needy.

"This *Tekieh* could be built in Shmeisani, which is recognised as the residence for the rich, and people would still use it out of real necessity," Mr. Qa'dan said. He further explained that "people who live in large houses and wear expensive clothes are now also in need of money to buy food." He added that for "those people it is an even bigger problem than those who have lived on a low income all their lives."

Mr. Qa'dan stipulated that

"people who have only been able to afford one plate of chickpea paste all their lives can still afford that same plate, but for people who have been able to afford luxurious homes and lavish meals, it is a catastrophe to reach a point where you can hardly afford that same plate of chickpea paste."

The centre opened on the first day of Ramadan, as a result of a collective effort to ten people who realised the need for a charitable organisation which tries to overcome barriers of religion, sect or area. Mr. Qa'dan, who was a student at an orphanage in Jerusalem and had first-hand experience with the effectiveness of a *tekiah*, came up with the idea and contacted the other nine. They were "very willing to help," he said.

Benefiting 400 people

The guest house of the centre has two social workers who investigate the status of families who apply for help, taking into account the number of dependents in one family, residence area and income from work, if it exists. So far, 400 people are benefiting from this guest house.

"I visited a seven member family at their home to see what they were having for dinner. All they had was one plate full of a sweet liquid, *amar al dine*," said Mr. Qa'dan. Another family he visited were living on the JD 20 which the provider of the family brought in as an army conscript. Mr. Qa'dan said that he feels this second family would not have been in need of help had the provider been allowed to delay his conscription period until one of his younger brothers was able to provide for the family in his place.

The soup kitchen in Al Hussein camp serves the needs of the Al Hussein area, Al Nuzha, Dahiet Al Amir Hassan and any area from which the families can easily reach the kitchen.

Arrangements have also been made to give all necessary services to the dead and their families, including the washing of the dead, and opening condolences rooms for those families who do not have space in their house to receive all the mourners and condolers.

"This is only the first stage. We still hope to build a small mosque



A family living in Al Hussein camp about to enjoy food provided by the tekiah centre.

for the workers at the tekiah, guests and for prayer for the dead," Mr. Qa'dan said. He added that they intend to provide sleeping accommodations for those who have nowhere to sleep, a water fountain for those who pass by from the streets and special medical clinics which will provide free full-time doctor services for avoiding dentalists, to those who need it.

Needy shouldn't feel embarrassed

"This is not charity; it is the right of everyone who is in need to go out and ask for whatever help they need from whoever they feel can give it," said Mr. Qa'dan, adding that "if the needy were not receiving insults from those who could help them, they would not feel as if they should hide their needs and poverty. People in need still feel that they

are intruding on those with money because of these attitudes."

"We are here only to provide the help that we feel is needed. Every religion bids that help be extended to those who need it," he said. He added that he feels all people are brothers regardless of religious affiliation. "We are brothers, both crescents and crosses."

Fatin Matari, a social worker, told the Jordan Times that there was an incredible demand for this kind of help and that people have been coming in by the hundreds to apply for this service. "On Thursday, we received 50 different cases. We cannot take them all in right now; we need to organise things so that we can accept anyone who needs help," she said.

Mr. Qa'dan goes as far as "the needy constitute around 50 per cent of the population in Jordan."



Children of needy families crowd to receive assistance in specially designed pails provided by the centre.



Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat opens the first soup kitchen in Jordan.

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Awaiting a plan of action

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy's current tour of Iraq and other Arab states in the Gulf and recent statements by Reagan administration officials reflecting Washington's concern over the continuing Iran-Iraq war point to a more pronounced American interest in that troubled region of the world. It is premature to say if Washington can fulfill its declared intention of guaranteeing regional security and providing protection to the Gulf states and their oil shipments in the face of Iran's open threats. One has to await the outcome of Murphy's tour before formulating a clear idea about Washington's real plan of action to back its words with deeds.

The start of Murphy's visit coincided with a visit to Washington by an Arab League delegation, seeking help in pushing through a settlement to the Iran-Iraq war. The group came away with the impression that the United States was serious about not only stopping its arms supplies to Iran but also its readiness to urge the international community to help end the conflict.

Murphy's Gulf tour follows one made to the region last month by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky for discussions on the Gulf war and means of protecting international shipping. Iran, which has deployed missiles along its shores to threaten international shipping, has been singling out Kuwait-related ships in recent months for their attacks, and both Moscow and Washington have been approached by Kuwait to provide protection for its tankers. The superpowers are favourably disposed to Kuwait's requests, and this at least constitutes a first constructive step to deter the Iranians.

But what can the Americans and the Soviets do to end the on-going conflict between Iran and Iraq? On the one hand, Washington has still to improve its image and regain its credibility which has sharply deteriorated in the Gulf and the Middle East as a result of U.S. arms supplies to Iran. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, is considered an enemy by Iran's rulers; and in the words of Iranian President Ali Khamenei, Tehran will not ignore Moscow's "unacceptable" support for Iraq. So what options do the superpowers really have in curtailing Iranian missile attacks on merchant vessels and above all ending the Iran-Iraq conflict? Not very many.

We believe that if the superpowers are really interested in finding an end to hostilities and saving the world from further tragedies, they should probably think of applying economic sanctions on Iran in order to compel it to accept U.N. Resolution 582 of February 1986, which calls for a ceasefire, withdrawal by each belligerent to its borders, and peace talks.

The recent statement by the Reagan administration signalling its willingness to go along with such sanctions is a welcome development in the U.S. position. But in order to be meaningful and effective, this declared American stance has to be translated into a plan of action, in concert with the Soviet Union and the rest of the international community. Let us hope that such plan of action is in the process of being drawn up in both Moscow and Washington.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Waiting for Israel

IT is not easy for the Belgian foreign minister to carry through his mission in Israel. He is there to promote the idea of an international conference for achieving peace in the Middle East. But since the publication of the European Economic Community's declaration in Brussels, Israel has been continuously rejecting the idea of such a conference and has now sent an envoy from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to Washington in a bid to persuade the United States to reject the idea of the conference openly. The United States has already responded favourably to Shamir's bid and its Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy has already declared that Washington will not change its position and cannot consider the proposed conference as a formula for solving the Palestine problem and ending the Middle East issue. The Belgian foreign minister's visit to Israel presented another opportunity for Israel to abandon its intransigence and accept the will of the international community by holding the conference and implementing United Nations resolutions. This is indeed the last chance for the present Israeli government's existence in the form of a coalition between Labour, which supports the idea of the conference and the Likud which opposes any settlement with the Arab countries unless it is conducted through direct negotiations. If the coalition fails to agree on the proposed conference, parliamentary elections will be held and the world will have to await the results.

Al Dustour: We've been there before

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy has made statements in Baghdad and Abu Dhabi during his current tour of the Gulf region. These statements were seemingly soothing and satisfactory. Yet one can not but suspect the meaning they imply because they are ambiguous and most importantly coming from an envoy whose government lacks any credibility in the region. Murphy said that his country would be exerting strenuous efforts for ending the Gulf war, and this calls for appreciation and praise. But these statements being uttered by an American official whose government has been resorting to all types of deceptions and intrigues against the Arabs and empty promises, make the Arabs doubtful about their sincerity. It is hard to believe in such promises and such statements since it was the United States which sold Iran sophisticated weapons to prolong its aggression on the Arabs. We cannot accept Murphy's statements at face value and definitely will not consider them as reflecting a change in Washington's long standing policy towards the Arabs because earlier promises by U.S. officials proved all lies and meant to deceive and mislead public opinion. This American stand is the same with regard to the Gulf war and the Palestine question as well as other issues in the region. The Murphy statements should therefore be regarded as dust thrown into the face and eyes of the Arab people.

Sawt Al Shaab: Romancing a summit

IT has become clear now that the Arab summit will come soon, probably at Eid Al Adha and will be held in the capital of Saudi Arabia thanks to the intensive contacts held between Arab leaders over the past weeks. The summit represents another chance for the Arab countries to display cohesion and solidarity, and to launch joint action. The time is ripe for such a summit because of the need of the Arab countries for it and in view of the seriousness of the situation in the Arab region and the current developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the probability of holding the proposed international peace conference. Therefore, the meeting of Arab leaders has become necessary, and their joint plans are now needed for the coming stage and for confronting common challenges. The Arabs have been waiting for a summit meeting by their leaders for nearly five years; and the problems that accumulated over this period are enormous enough, warranting such parley that would serve the Arab Nation's interests.

The View from Second Circle

Historical truth and the Holy Land saga

By Rami G. Khouri

THE Holy Land air is so full of talk about an international conference that one hesitates to think about what might happen next. It is perhaps appropriate, in the circumstances, to keep an honest, down-to-earth perspective on precisely what has and has not happened in the flurry of activity of the past several months, so that we might know when to cheer and when to wait for better days and better men — keeping in mind that most of the truly significant events related to Arab-Israeli peace-making are taking place privately and secretly, so that comment such as which follows is largely uninformed and speculative. Consequently, with my credentials established beyond a doubt, I would suggest that:

(1) The most significant development to take place in the past year is the web of relations and events linking the United States, the Soviet Union and Israel. For the first time in recent memory, we see, a) the Israelis and Soviets meeting and moving towards a resumption of diplomatic ties, which is vital for any broad progress towards a negotiated Arab-Israeli peace; b) the United States and the Soviet Union mutually viewing the Arab-Israeli conflict as a containable regional issue which must not detract from more important big power issues; c) the Americans taking positions, albeit faintly and slowly with considerable head scratching, that are — holy cow, gee whiz — contrary to Israeli government thinking, such as Washington's ability to view the international conference proposal with less moral and mental convulsions; and d) the Soviet Union steadily making inroads in the region, building contacts and diplomatic ties in the Gulf, and setting itself up as a vital partner with OPEC for international oil price stability.

(2) The Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers, when the dust settles and the cheering stops, probably will prove to have been historically and politically passive, pushing the PLO into the arms of neither the Arab World's frenzied moderates nor its lunatic extremists. The PLO calculated — correctly, I would think — that since there was no apparent immediate prospect of a negotiated peace with Israel, in view of present Israeli and American policies, it might as well unify its ranks and derive that satisfaction at least, because the price of unity was minimal, and known from several previous unity jamborees.

There were no new PLO positions taken at Algiers: the February 11 accord with Jordan was already inoperative and effectively void, Palestinian-Jordanian ties were characterised by a special quality that would have to lead, if not to confederal ties, then to something similar with a different name, relations with Egypt were more symbolic than substantive, the PLO remained committed to participating in an international conference of substance rather than only of show, it has always rejected recognising the applicability of resolutions 242 and 338 on their own and isolated from the Palestinian right to national self-determination, and it wants to form an independent Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem.

None of this is new, and those journalists, academics, diplomats, politicians and others who have spent much of their early middle age marvelling at how Yasser Arafat can keep coming back after being counted out of the game, would do well to appreciate the significance of, a) the consistency and substantive direction of PNC resolutions during the past 15 years, and b) the natural tendency of Palestinian leaderships to be bounced around the Arab World, but always to resurface with their legitimacy and relevance intact. Which should remind us that:

(3) This is a good historical juncture to review the many efforts by many different parties — Arab, Israeli and American — to try to make believe that the PLO can somehow be ignored and kept out of peace talks. Over the past two decades, assorted parties have tried to ignore the PLO, to refuse to deal with it, to fight it militarily, to foment internal revolts and splits within it, to replace it with artificial leaderships in the occupied territories or elsewhere, to pressure it, to threaten it, to drive it into a corner, to isolate it, to take it over, or to set up rival resistance movements and political leaderships. Isn't it about time that there were a broader and deeper appreciation, by those who make or document the history of the Semitic peoples and their long-running Holy Land saga, that the PLO will simply have to be dealt with? This is the point, I would suggest, in Jordan's consistent refusal to succumb to American and other pressure to break away, Sadat-like, from the Arab consensus and enter into direct talks with Israel. We, as Jordan, may have our temporary problems and tactical disagreements with the PLO, but these are passing phases that do not detract from the deeper appreciation that the PLO, as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians, has to be involved if peace is really to break out. If the PLO is such a collection of bad guys and bad leaders, why are they still here? And what keeps them in the game? It's certainly something more than Yasser Arafat's chinny chin chins. Let us recall this month how many times during the past 15 years (remember Rogers, Brzezinski and Kissinger and how they huffed and they puffed?) the PLO has been warned that unless it came on board the peace efforts of the day, it would be left behind and forgotten. But this has never happened. The PLO is still with us, still insisting that the honourable terms of peace and sovereignty that were championed earlier this century by the Great Arab Revolt and the Hashemite family should be implemented today.

Because the PLO tends to be consistent, if not always sufficiently tactically bold, in terms of its long-term political demands, it is often singled out as the intransigent party. But, it is incorrect, and missing the point, to claim that the PLO has taken a radical turn to the left at Algiers. If an international peace conference is or is not held, it will not be because of what happened at Algiers, but rather because of:

4) What is happening inside Israel today, with the Labour and Likud parties playing footsies with George Shultz' composure, and

thereby generating an unusual ability on his part to keep quiet for a while. No Israeli leadership has ever gone to its people asking to be voted into office on a platform demanding to enter into peace talks with the Arabs at an international conference at which Palestinian representatives would be present. There is no certainty that Shimon Peres will do this, but he sure is making lots of noise, and those of us in the eastern Holy Land who wake up at night marvelling at our naive wish him much strength — should he prove to have any. But is he serious? Will he be split up the coalition government and ask his people to support him in his desire to work out some sort of mutually acceptable international conference? We shall soon find out. In the meantime, things in the Arab World are not static, because:

5) Reconciliation among Arab parties has broken out all over this Spring, probably because we are reaching the end of a generation-long, historical cycle of confusion, defeat, humiliation and failure, characterised by collective Arab subjugation at the hands of Israel and its American support, and by mind-boggling inter-Arab rivalries, wars, subversion, terror, violence, and, at the end of it all, a peculiar ability to kiss and make up; but this cycle of negativism has also been countered recently by the coming of age of a new generation of educated Arab professionals, businesspeople, government officials and others who have experienced the past four difficult decades, and who believe we can do better. Reconciliation is not the whole answer, but it is the necessary start, and it is happening within the PLO, between Morocco and Algeria, Jordan and Syria, perhaps Iraq and Syria, certainly the PLO and Syria, and ultimately between Jordan and the PLO and between Egypt and everybody else in the area. The increasingly dynamic Saudi Arabian role in all this is significant. These moves will have to come to fruition to pave the way for an Arab summit, which is the only forum where the Arab World's Big Issues can be resolved.

There is no way to predict whether some of the above elements would converge soon to produce an international conference, and whether or not the conference would produce peace and justice for all. The important thing at this point, with so many different developments taking place simultaneously, is to maintain a sense of composure and of historical accuracy, when assessing Israeli actions, the role of the PLO, or Jordan's ability or desire to negotiate a separate peace. The facts and trends of history are there for all to see and study. This is a good time to do so.

If the PLO wanted to accept 242, it would have done so long ago. But it has not. If Jordan wanted to negotiate a separate peace with Israel, it could have done so long ago, but it did not. It would be useful to leave Jordan and the PLO alone for a while, and shine the spotlight where it really belongs, in Israel. Genuinely new developments must come from Israel in the short run, if peace negotiations are to be meaningful, and if a peace agreement is to be honourable and durable.

LETTERS

No grudge

To the Editor:

ON March 30, 1987, the Jordan Times, printed an article entitled "Spare the weathermen" in Randa Habib's Corner. Until I read that article, I generally assumed that journalists wrote their news articles with a certain degree of responsibility and based on fact, not fabrication. I find the article unjustified, unsound and written without properly researching the subject matter. Therefore, I would be grateful if you publish the following facts to clarify certain points.

Personnel of the Jordan Times, in keeping with your tradition of providing outstanding news information and articles, you should report or write the fact, that is, fast, accurate, concise and true reports and articles. Unfortunately, what was printed in Randa Habib's article was only fact. Thus, such reporting only provides your readers with information that is complete at the 25 per cent level. Don't they deserve more?

Referring to the weather on Friday, March 27, the official weather forecast issued by the Jordan Department of Meteorology on March 26, 1987 was as follows: Partly cloudy with slight increase in temperature. Moreover the weatherman on that day did encourage vacationers to go down to the Jordan Valley. Accordingly the actual weather on Friday was really nice and warm in the valley, and many thousands of families including myself had enjoyed a nice, warm day with excellent visibility, although we only mention good visibility for aviation purposes.

Also, the official weather forecast on March 28, for Sunday March 29, 1987 was: Partly cloudy with possibility of rain showers in the northern and eastern parts of Jordan. Strangely in Randa Habib's corner the forecast was modified as follows: "We would be affected by a cold depression that will be followed by a rise in temperature and in some areas the weather will be sunny at times and cloudy at others." I wonder how this cocktail was brought together?

I believe, although our weather reports are not always 100 per cent accurate — and I don't know a meteorological office where they are 100 per cent accurate — we at the Jordan Department of Meteorology give a much higher efficiency in providing responsible and accurate weather reports to the community than Ms. Habib's article of only 25 per cent completeness suggests. Although we are not always accurate with our forecasts, they are fast, concise, and, we believe, true.

Finally, it was not the first time that we read unfair criticism in the Jordan Times concerning weathermen. I wonder why!

Dr. A. Abandah,
Director General,
Jordan Meteorological Department,
Amman.

Editor's note: Dr. Abandah should rest assured that the Jordan Times holds no grudge and is not biased against his department. We, like many Jordanian citizens, however, do believe, and as Dr. Abandah himself admits in this letter, that the Department of Meteorology does issue inaccurate weather reports sometimes, and that these do cause inconveniences to and invite criticism from citizens when they are issued.

Ignorance or concurrence?

To the Editor:

"THE voice of America Charter" was included in a letter, which was printed in the Jordan Times on March 14, 1987. The following statements are quoted from it.

"VOA must win the attention and respect of listeners. VOA news will be accurate, objective and comprehensive. VOA will represent America, not any single segment of American society, and will therefore present a balanced and comprehensive projection of significant American thoughts and institutions."

According to the Jordan Times editorial of April 6, VOA has recently listed five Middle East countries for reproach concerning human rights abuses. The glaring omission of Israel from that list is an insult and makes a mockery of the above principles.

VOA's report could hardly be called objective, balanced and comprehensive and is unlikely to gain the respect of its listeners. The Jordan Times' assumption of bias is justified. The continued Israeli occupation of Palestine is a violation of the highest degree, it is a violation of basic human rights. VOA has either chosen to ignore this, or does it not consider Israel as part of the Middle East?

Karen Ashour,
P.O. Box 4207,
Amman.



British politicians take to the hard sell

Fiona McEwan looks at the battle for the hearts and minds of the British electorate as the local elections come up and a general election seems to be set for sooner rather than later.

LONDON — Mr. Jim Kelly of the British advertising agency, will never forget the night he was summoned to the House of Commons to sing to Mrs. Shirley Williams and Mr. Roy Jenkins.

His rendering of Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better was part of a proposed radio party political broadcast his agency was preparing for the Social Democrats.

It was duly given the go-ahead — but the night before it was to appear on air, the party canned it. The result was an eleven-hour scramble as party supremos, plus a long-suffering producer, busked their way through a substitute broadcast.

That was 1983 and an example of the party's first faltering steps onto the controversial stage of political advertising. This time around, when the general election campaign starts, things are going to be different.

Like the more well-seasoned Labour and Tory parties, the SDP-Liberal Alliance has a team of publicity advisers in place long before the election date is known. Every possible marketing tool will be marshalled by the political protagonists in their bid for the most powerful market share of them all. Direct mail, advertising public relations — or as some dub it, media manipulation — will all play a part.

Mr. Simon Lewis, SDP communications chief, says his prime task is ensuring maximum editorial television and radio exposure. "It is a military-style exercise, getting the right people in the right place in the heat of battle."

Political advertising during local government elections is generally minimal and low key, confined to local media, since candidates are restricted in the money they can spend under the Representation of the People Act.

The figure is about between £300 (£483) and £500 (£805) a candidate depending on constituency size. In general elections, the figure is an average £5,000.

There is no limit on how much a party may spend publicising

itself. So, while a party may spend only up to about £5,000 urging "vote Thatcher," it can spend what it likes saying "vote Conservative." The parties traditionally unleash their mega-budget campaigns once the local elections are over. Signs so far from the Alliance and Tories indicate this holds true this time.

Labour already has its first posters up, aimed particularly at marginal seats, says Mr. Peter Mandelson, party director of communications. They say: "The millions, not the millions. We all know who the Tories care about." Alongside is a mock dole queue with the slogan: "The country's crying out for change. Vote Labour."

The poster's stark monochrome contrasts vividly with the red rose which is Labour's symbol. The idea is that "the red rose of Labour stands out against the bleak despairing background representing the Conservative government," says Mr. Mandelson.

This particular poster — there are others in the series — recalls a similarly controversial billboard from Saatchi and Saatchi, the Conservatives' advertising agency in 1978. It was headed: "Labour isn't working" and featured a mock dole queue, using young Conservatives from Hendon, north London.

Ironically, Labour complained fiercely about this poster at the time. The resulting media debate was just the sort of free coverage the Tories wanted. Will they fall into the same trap this time round and return the gift?

It is generally accepted that the Saatchi and Saatchi campaigns for the Tories in the 1979 election changed the pace of political advertising. Labour, ambivalent in the past, appointed an agency for the first time. It is not repeating that this year, however, preferring any anonymous "shadow agency" of media volunteers.

In contrast with Labour, the Alliance and Tories show little sign of launching a national campaign until after the local elections. However, clues to the postures they plan to adopt have begun to emerge.

The Tories have retained Saatchi and Saatchi for the election campaign, but only after considerable debate over whether to switch to U.S. agency Young and Rubicam. Mr. Tim Bell, a former Saatchi executive and a key figure in the past two election campaigns, could be recalled to the campaign "cabinet."

The Alliance advisory team includes prize advertising copywriter Mr. David Abbott, whose agency, Abbott Mead Vickers, is responsible for the Volvo car and Sainsbury supermarket campaigns. The Alliance slogan, "The time has come" — unveiled at a rally in late January — is his.

The Tories have given a hint of the rallying cry they will use with their slogan, "The next move forward," launched at last year's party conference.

The efficacy of election time political advertising remains a moot point. Many experts believe it has little effect on the political outcome.

The evidence suggests that advertising has a marginal effect of perhaps 1 per cent, says Mr. Winston Fletcher, chairman of agency Delaney Fletcher Delaney and frequent adviser to the SDP. This can be important in a first-past-the-post system as in the U.K. Mr. Fletcher says: "What it does is to encourage supporters and might influence political wobblers, that fair proportion of the undecided who may look for political clues in the advertising among other things."

For years there has been a traditional ambivalence in British politics about political advertising — unlike in the U.S. where politicians can buy themselves on to television, the most powerful medium of all, and convey hard sell messages in 30-second slots like any other merchant.

In the U.K., television and radio political advertising is outlawed, apart from the standard party political broadcasts, which are evenly distributed and last generally between five and 10 minutes.

Thus, although many protagonists believe the election will be won or lost on television — and one new factor this time is the advent of breakfast television

— politicians have to limit their efforts to the press, posters, peripheral outdoor media such as balloons and banners, and for the first time, direct mail.

Having noted the political effectiveness of direct mail by U.S. political parties, all British parties are using it, with computerised mailing lists transforming electioneering.

The SDP admits to finding it highly effective in fundraising, achieving a 5 per cent response rate on one mailing to 250,000 people for instance. It helped, too, in the recent by-election triumph at Greenwich, south London, where the victorious Alliance was able to tailor different arguments to voters of different persuasions.

For the Tories, the ability to define likely prospects means they can mail to first-time voters and company directors as they choose. They have also mailed to most British Telecom shareholders.

The old standby, the party political broadcast, has also been changing. It was Saatchi which in effect redefined it, with fewer talking heads — to counter the switch-off factor — and more graphic animation to stress points.

The SDP has taken this further still with its offbeat use of comedy actor John Cleese.

Political advertising works by crystallising thoughts which enter the mind and the heart, says one old hand. "It's easy if you understand politics, but the mistake many ad-men make is they think people choose parties like they choose baked beans. They think slogans will do it. It's a far more serious business."

Ultimately, of course, advertising costs money — barring, that is, the poster contractors and press proprietors who donate space to their favourite party.

Though no-one is telling the true figures, estimates of Labour spending at the last election vary from £500,000 to £1 million, and for the Tories £2 million to about £4 million. Media Expenditure by Analysis, a company which logs advertising budgets, says the Tories spent £1.6 million on press advertising alone last time against Labour's £666,000. The Liberals appear to have spent nothing — Financial Times feature.

Copenhagen's Tivoli Gardens continue European tradition

By Michael Duggan
Reuters

COPENHAGEN — Copenhagen's elegant Tivoli Gardens opened this month for the 145th season, perhaps the last surviving example of 19th-century pleasure gardens which flourished in Europe before anyone dreamed up Disneyland.

Georg Carstensen, who founded Tivoli in 1843 just outside the old city walls, gleaned the idea from the Tivoli Gardens in Paris and the Vauxhall Gardens in London. Tivoli was originally a summer resort near Rome where Emperor Hadrian's villa stood.

"The basic idea was light, gardens and music. In Tivoli, mechanical music and neon lights are forbidden and no one shouts through microphones. The signs are handmade," spokesman Hans-Henrik Holm told Reuters.

He said the relaxed atmosphere was to be experienced rather than defined. "You cannot compare it with Disneyland in America. To us that is plastic — and you cannot serve alcohol there."

Since Tivoli opened, nearly 250 million visitors have passed through the gates, more than the present population of the United States. Last year there were 4.5 million guests during the season from May to mid-September, and total turnover exceeded 400 million crowns (now \$60 million).

An entrance fee of about three dollars entitles visitors to walk around and drink in the atmosphere of bandstands, fireworks, flower beds containing 60,000 tulips, with restaurants and a concert hall housing one of the world's biggest music festivals — all illuminated by 110,000 lamps.

There are nightly concerts by musicians from all over the world, and this year's cultural highlight will be a visit by the U.S. Dance Theatre of Harlem.

Many of the Tivoli buildings look exotically oriental, reflecting the interests of founder Carstensen, a widely-travelled Dane born in Algiers 175 years ago.

Nazi occupiers blew up a quarter of the buildings during World War II, as revenge against the Danish resistance movement, but the Danes have restored the damage.

A central attraction is the Chinese pantomime, a fantasy of gilt towers and dragons with a mechanical peacock on stage who unfolds his tail before each performance. The pantomime shows mime based on the 16th-century Italian Commedia Dell'Arte.

"It was originally two Italian families who did it. The first Pierrot clown became a folk hero," said Holm.

Italians also started the firework show which takes place four times a week. The family now responsible has done the job for three generations.

In the Tivoli funfair, the 70-year-old roller coaster is popular with teenagers, but for the well-dressed elderly ladies who flock to the gardens for their morning coffee the promenade music seems more of a draw.

Tivoli even has a troop of 110 boy soldiers, who march around blowing trumpets. "They get a free musical education. Many become professional musicians," Holm said.

On the opening day there is keen competition to find a seat in "the ditch," a restaurant where politicians, actors and other prominent people go to watch the world go by as they eat traditional Danish food and drink Danish beer.

This is bound to please Denmark's United Breweries, producer of Carlsberg and Tuborg beers, which has a 44 per cent stake in the holding company which controls the gardens.

As Holm put it: "Tivoli has to do with a plate of shrimps, a draught beer and a glass of schnapps."

The Independent classifies its problems

At the six-month mark, Raymond Snoddy looks at the fortunes of The Independent, the first serious broadsheet newspaper to be launched this century in the U.K.

LONDON — Readers of The Independent newspaper do not appear to be born, to marry or to die — not at least in the classified columns of their favourite newspaper. In a recent issue, there was one birth and one marriage, although there was a flurry of engagements at Easter.

The paper has even been known to reproduce free of charge births and marriages which have already appeared in other newspapers to try to get the column going.

The Independent's inability so far to make money from "rites of passage" is a small symptom of the paper's main commercial weakness so far.

The Independent may be Newspaper of the Year and Mr. Andreas Whitam Smith, its editor, journalist of the year, but classified advertising, and in particular appointments, has been disappointing.

Mr. Whitam Smith said: "We underestimated the difference between display and classified advertising and underestimated the number of people we needed to sell classified. It's terrible. We are less than halfway towards our classified target."

In the classified columns, there are advertisements for more clas-

sified staff for The Independent. Six months after the launch of the quality daily, founded by three former Daily Telegraph journalists, they are batten down the hatches and cutting costs.

"We have established our journalistic credentials and that was very important and had to come first," says Mr. Whitam Smith, who is combining the role of editor and chief executive of Newspaper Publishing, the company which publishes The Independent.

The latest Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) figures show that in the six months from October to March, The Independent had an average daily circulation of 288,660. This is below prospectus forecasts of about 320,000 by February but not disastrously so.

Mr. Whitam Smith picks off the pluses and the minuses with the sort of objectivity he might bring to writing a leader:

— Circulation. The March figure was 291,000 but April will probably show a fall because The Independent, heavily dependent on casual sales, tends to do badly at holiday periods.

— Display advertising was "extremely good," said Mr. Whitam Smith. In March, The Independent had 1,269 columns compared with 1,536 for The Times, 2,157 for the Daily Telegraph and 953 for The Guardian.

— Profile was "better than expected." National Readership Survey figures for November to February show that 80 per cent of The Independent's readers are from the ABC1 social groups and that 69 per cent of the readers are under 45. These figures compare well with those for The Times, Telegraph and Guardian.

— Readers per copy: About 2.5, less than the quality average of 2.75.

The balance sheet so far shows that at the beginning of April, The Independent drew down the last £1.8 million (\$3 million) of loan stock out of total start-up funds of £18 million, although a £3 million overdraft facility has not yet been touched.

In February, the paper was losing £400,000 a month, based on 12-month forecasts, which included all expected increases in costs and made no allowances for increases in circulation or display advertising. The figure for March was just over £350,000 and Mr. Whitam Smith says the figure will fall well below £300,000 in April.

A 20 per cent cut in variable costs — or £80,000 a month — has been ordered. This has affected everything from messengers to outside contributors and purchase of pictures.

Mr. Whitam Smith said: "If we have a very favourable nine months, then we might just get to break even by the end of the year. If we have an average period then we would expect to break even by next April."

Because display advertising has met its target and overall costs have been cut, The Independent believes it can reach break-even on a circulation not much higher than 300,000 compared with the prospectus target of 375,000.

In spite of its journalistic awards, will The Independent have to return this autumn to its backers, including Prudential Assurance and Legal & General, for more money?

Mr. Whitam Smith said: "I think the chances are we won't ever have to go back to them and that we will use a little of our overdraft and that will tide us over to break-even. But I can't be sure — it's half hope and half forecast." If he has to go back for more money, he says he has to assume that investors will continue to back the project.

Mr. Whitam Smith is only too aware of dark rumours that The Independent could soon be in financial trouble, in spite of being widely seen as an editorial success.

He counters: "We have carried out mission impossible eight times and we really do not see why we should not complete the course" — Financial Times feature.

Austerity measures may curb growth of Third World cities

By Carl Hartman
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Austerity policies pressed on Third World countries to help them pay their debts may have an unexpected benefit: A curb on the huge growth of cities and their miserable slums.

Mexico City, for instance, was expected at one time to grow from its current population of 18 million people to 30 million people by the year 2,000 — becoming the biggest city in the world.

But Lester R. Brown, co-author of a new study called "The future of urbanisation," now says, "It won't even be close to that."

Brown said one reason for the expected slowdown in the city's growth is that the Mexican government, under pressure from lenders, has cut the subsidy on tortillas.

Those are thin cakes that are the staple food of poor Mexicans, and in cities, they usually are made from imported cornmeal. The problem is the cost of the cornmeal contributes to Mexico's \$100-billion foreign debt.

The high cost of tortillas is not the only damper on the Mexican surge to the capital. Another is the rapidly rising cost of water, which could lead to stringent rationing. Mexico would have trouble borrowing the billions needed for additional waterworks.

"The adoption of policies to

arrest the growth in external debt and the transition to renewable sources of energy seem certain to slow urban growth," the study concludes.

"It is even conceivable that in some instances urbanisation will be reversed," the study said.

Brown headed the agriculture department's international development service under President Johnson. He is now president of Worldwatch Institute, a private non-profit research organisation.

The World Bank estimates that Third World countries owe \$1.08 trillion on loans. With support from the administration of President Ronald Reagan, the bank and its sister organisation, the International Monetary Fund, usually press debtor countries to adopt three major policies, among others, in return for new loans.

— Increases in prices paid to farmers to encourage home food production and cut down expensive imports;

— Reductions in the food subsidies that mostly benefit city people, including many who do not need them. The subsidies weigh heavily on government budgets;

— Devaluation of the currency, a measure that makes imported oil, food and luxuries more expensive.

All these policies benefit local farmers, who in Third World countries include the poorest sections of the population. But they

hurt city dwellers, usually the power base for political leaders. So, the policies can be hard to enforce.

The latest example comes from the Southern African Republic of Zambia, where President Kenneth Kaunda last December more than doubled the price of cornmeal, a staple food in Zambia as well as in Mexico. The object was to qualify for a loan from the International Monetary Fund. But Kaunda canceled the order after riots killed at least 15 people.

Policy-makers will be watching to see what will happen in Egypt if, as expected, it gets a \$300-million loan from the International Monetary Fund this month.

Officials of the bank and fund say they are not the ones that impose austerity policies. They only advise governments, which have to make their own decisions. However, the international officials argue that if their advice is not taken, events will force even harsher solutions.

"Brown and his co-author Jodi L. Jacobson, also see curbs to the growth of U.S. cities — not because of austerity policies, but because of the heavy use of petroleum as the price rises in the 1990s.

"The ability of highly oil-dependent cities, such as Houston and Los Angeles... to compete in the world market will be seriously disadvantaged by high living costs and hence, high wages," they predicted.

British lord still attacking nation's morals from soapbox

By Mark Trevelyan
Reuters

LONDON — In his time Lord Soper has railed against Britain's queen, Elizabeth for attending horse races, criticised her husband Prince Philip for playing polo on Sundays and scorned teenage infatuation with the Beatles.

All from a soapbox in central London.

The 84-year-old veteran Methodist minister, pacifist and Socialist is dubbed "the sage of Tower Hill" after a venue near the Tower of London where he has spoken almost every Wednesday luncheon for the last 62 years.

His Sunday meetings at Speakers Corner in Hyde Park date back almost as far, although in recent years the famed central London site, where any would-be orator may stand on a soapbox and let off steam to anyone who will listen, has come under threat from loud and persistent hecklers.

But Soper is as determined as ever not to be outdone.

"I'll see them off," he says of those who try to disrupt his twice-weekly open-air meetings.

The corner, a national institution which attracts many tourists, has been a forum for dissent and eccentricity since 1855, when a carpenter first addressed a small gathering there.

It enjoyed its heyday early this century when speakers including playwright George Bernard Shaw, and Anwarin Bevan, one of the great heroes of the Labour Party, helped it become known as "the millpond of the political world."

Soper, who enjoys a love-hate relationship with some of his hecklers, told Reuters in an interview: "I would rather have the heckling, however difficult it is, than the apathetic quiet inside many a church."

Many of them are secretly rather fond of him, he says. One went to the trouble of making the wooden stand on which he per-

ches — leaning forward. His white hair dishevelled by the wind — to address the crowds.

Once, when police tried to arrest him after a security scare at the Tower, a group of "people who gave the impression of disliking me intensely" rallied to his support.

On another occasion he was surprised to find some of his faithful at an open-air meeting he held in Sydney, Australia.

"I don't know if they'd made the journey specially, but there they were."

Soper knows many members of his audience, though few by name. Some are the grandsons of his original listeners in the 1920s and thirties, many have approached him for help with their problems, or even summoned him to their deathbeds.

One man who had been on the point of committing suicide came to listen to him at Tower Hill and handed over to him the gun with which he had been about to shoot himself.

Soper says such incidents are his greatest reward, although he also relishes the intellectual stimulation.

Willing to take questions on any subject, he aims to create what he calls a "fellowship of controversy."

"I don't want to pretend that I'm an expert, but there are certain ways in which you can make what you have to say much more interesting."

"One of the ways is to remember dear old Bernard Shaw, who said: 'Say four times more than you believe — they'll only accept a quarter of it anyway.' There's a virtue in that. I mean, not so as to be insincere, but to make, if you like, extravagant rather than precise statements."

He believes Tower Hill and speakers corner are just as important today as in their heyday. Though the mass media have made the job of the speaker much harder — "He's got to be cued up on all sorts of things."

In the 1960s Soper condemned

"beatlemania," — saying it was "pandering to a dangerous eruption of early puberty sexual feelings." He criticised the royal family for attending horse races, which he objects to as a forum for gambling.

He now admits there were times when his "mental adrenaline" ran away with him but he has lost his former illusions.

"I definitely find it hard at the tail end of a life — the lack of the kind of progress that in my early days I thought was going to happen. I think we're in a hell of a mess," He says.

He was awarded a life peerage by the then Labour government in 1965. He still sometimes speaks in the House of Lords, the non-elected upper chamber of parliament — though as a Socialist he disapproves of it — and works full time at the West London Methodist mission.

Sitting back in an armchair in his small office there, sparsely decorated with a few photographs of his wife — "the most beautiful woman in the world" — and daughters, he sighs when asked about the future of his beloved forums.

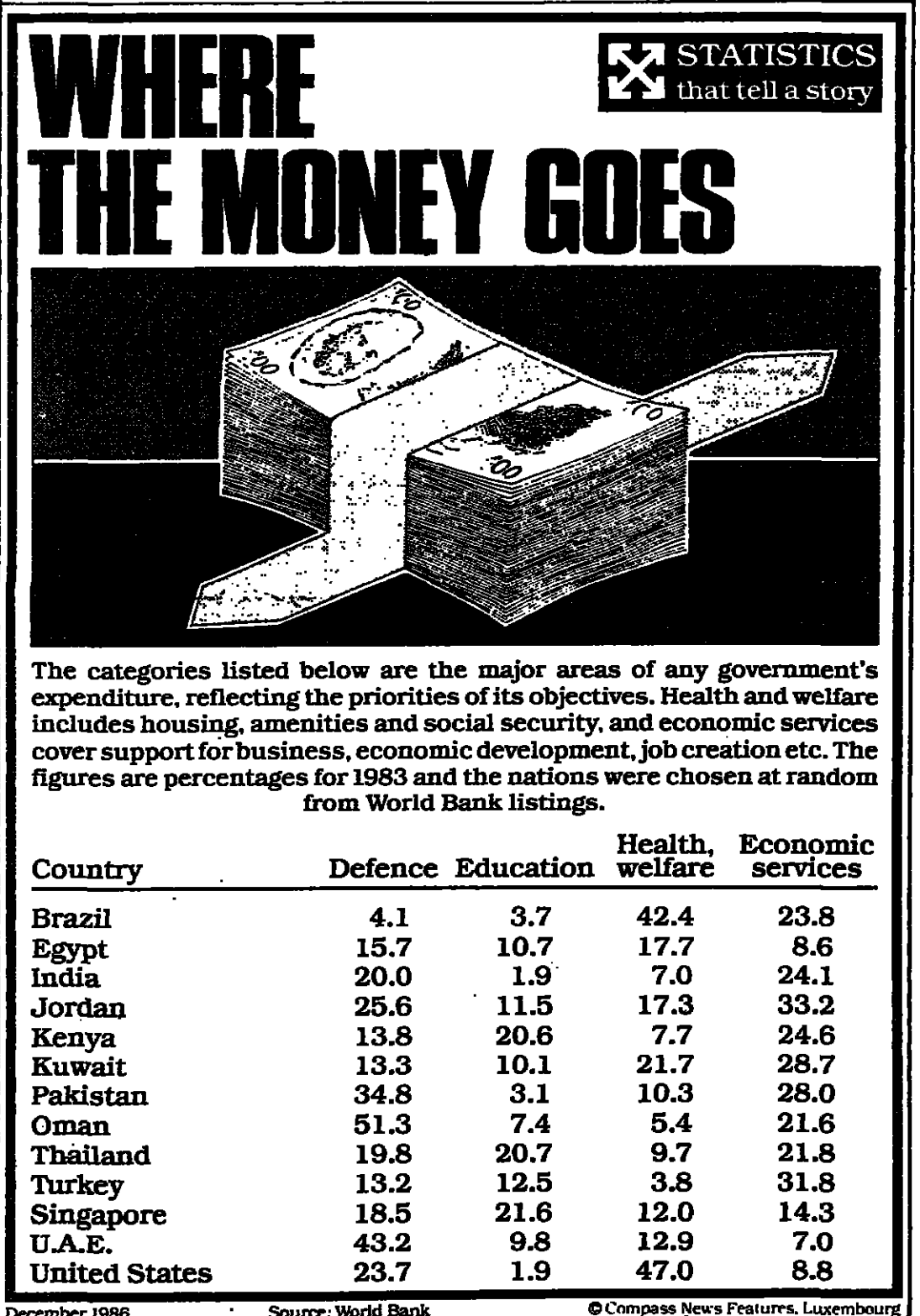
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IOC admits tennis pros to Seoul Olympic games

ISTANBUL (R) — Olympic leaders ushered in a new era Monday by admitting professional tennis players to the 1988 Seoul Games.

Although professionals will be eligible in most other sports in Seoul, the decision to admit the big names of the Grand Prix tennis circuit was widely seen as a watershed in Olympic history.

It was expected to have more impact than virtually any other single decision in disposing of the nominal amateur code enforced since the Olympics were revived in 1896.

The only remaining summer games sport not open to the world's top players is soccer, from which European and South American world cup players are barred.

However, Olympic leaders are to discuss with the International Football Federation (FIFA) the possibility of opening up the 1992 Barcelona games to Europeans and South Americans who have played in world cup qualifying matches but not in the finals.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) agreed by acclamation to allow high-profile tennis players such as Boris Becker and Martina Navratilova to compete in Seoul.

The plan to permit tennis professionals to play in Seoul on an experimental basis was submitted.

to the 92nd IOC session by Willi Daume, West German chairman of the IOC Eligibility Commission.

Daume told a news conference there was no direct opposition to the proposals despite doubts expressed in the past by Soviet-bloc and Third World countries.

"It is important that the Olympic games should be for the elite and not for second, third or fourth class competitors," Daume said.

"Tennis is such a big sport that the Olympic games would not be complete without it," he added.

He said the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and those players with whom he had discussed the proposals agreed the Olympic tournament should become the most important in the tennis calendar.

To be eligible for the 64-man women's Seoul singles events, players must comply with a number of conditions agreed by the IOC and ITF.

They will be required to live in the Olympic village with other competitors rather than stay in the sort of luxury accommodation they are accustomed to on the Grand Prix circuit.

"When a man earning a million dollars a year lives in the Olympic village, sleeping in a small bed and eating the same food as the other athletes, you can say he has the Olympic spirit," French IOC member Count Jean de Beaumont told reporters.

Players may not accept financial reward for participating in the Olympics and must suspend for the period of the games any commercial contracts under which they normally advertise branded products.

They will also be required to comply with the Olympic rules governing fair play, violence and doping.

Players will have to be in good standing with the ITF and their national federations and make themselves available for the men's Davis Cup and women's Federation Cup team events.

The IOC also agreed to a proposal banning tennis players from competing in Korean tournaments for two weeks before and two weeks after the Olympics. To protect the Olympics from intrusion by other events, the rules normally forbid such competitions for one week before and one week after the games.

Daume said the future of Olympic tennis would be examined in the light of the Seoul event. "We will make changes if

necessary, but I am sure the Seoul tennis will be a big success," he added.

The second day of the IOC session also approved a two-tier range of suspensions aimed at distinguishing between deliberate and inadvertent doping offences.

Under the new code, athletes who knowingly cheat by taking substances such as anabolic steroids, amphetamines or designer drugs would face a three-year suspension for a first offence and a life ban for a subsequent infringement.

However, competitors who unwittingly take ephedrine or codeine as a cold or headache cure would receive only three months for a first offence, scaling up to two years for a second and life for a third offence.

But although the IOC is empowered to strip an athlete of an Olympic medal and impose a games ban, only the international sports federations may order longer suspensions.

The bans imposed by the various federations differ considerably and the IOC hopes its new code will be adopted as a uniform standard.

The IOC also strengthened its powers by ruling that Olympic offenders may be banned from all future games as well as those at which the doping has been detected.

Jordan wins shooting honour in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Jordan's national marksmen's team has clinched the first position in the free rifle shooting, held within the Saddam International Olympic Shooting Championship, scoring 1,747 points.

The Kuwaiti team came second scoring 1,716 points and the Iraqi shooters scored 1,679 and ranked third.

The Jordanians won the first three positions in the individual free rifle shooting contest. The first place was secured by shooter Ali Salem, who scored 585 points. Awad Hadhoud scored 582 points and ranked second and the third place was won by Ali Hamed who scored 580 points.

The free pistol shooting contest was won by the Iraqi team which scored 1,529 points, followed by the Kuwaitis who scored 1,510 points. The Jordanian team ranked third scoring 1,482 points.

The contests were held to mark the occasion of the 50th birthday of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The championship which concluded Sunday featured national teams from Jordan, Iraq and Kuwait.

Members of the Jordanian team were expected back in Amman Monday evening.

50 hurt as fans take to the streets after Napoli win

NAPLES, Italy (R) — Police said at least 50 people were injured Saturday night, several of them seriously, in celebrations which followed Napoli's first ever Italian soccer league title success.

A 56-year-old man on a motorcycle was hit by a car and had to have a leg amputated in hospital. A mother and her three young children were seriously injured in another accident.

At least three people were injured, one of them seriously, by stray bullets as some fans fired guns into the air.

But there was no lack of typically Neapolitan pranks. A group of foreign tourists who had left their bus for a walking tour near Sorrento, south of Naples, returned to find it had been painted the Napoli team colour of blue, tyres and all.

In the town of Lancusi, in Salerno province, Napoli fans put up a loud speaker on the bell tower of a church and wired it up to a radio so the entire town could hear the game.

The parish priest was not amused, particularly because he had to say a funeral at the time. The funeral had to wait until after the game ended.

Napoli clinched the title by

drawing 1-1 at home to Fiorentina.

Fans celebrated late into the night. It was if almost everyone had taken to the streets, choking thoroughfares and turning the main seafront boulevard into a mass of chanting fans and honking cars, trucks, and motor scooters.

"This means everything to us. We have waited 60 years for this. It is our salvation," said 18-year-old Alessandro Enzi, who was dressed in a curly black wig and a number 10 Napoli shirt to resemble Maradona.

Earlier, Maradona had led Napoli on an emotional lap of honour around the stadium. "I feel like a son of Naples now," Maradona said after the game. "This shield belongs not only to the players and the fans but to the whole city."

Maradona said winning the Italian championship for Naples had made him twice as happy as winning the World Cup last year.

"Mexico was great but I couldn't celebrate with my own people," he said.

Florentina, who have not won at the San Paolo Stadium for five years, occasionally looked

dangerous with Argentine star Ramon Diaz but had 20-year-old Roberto Baggio to thank for the goal.

Three minutes from the end of the game the result from inter's game was announced and as the packed terraces once more erupted into scenes of wild celebration several Napoli players could not resist joining in.

"I am very, very happy," Maradona said afterwards. "We just wanted to make the people of Naples happy."

Third placed Juventus, jostling for a UEFA Cup place next season, looked like losing out on the points after Dane Preben Elkjaer put Verona ahead with a 69th minute penalty. But Lionello Manfredonia equalised for Juventus five minutes later.

Roma, who replaced Swedish trainer-manager Sven Goran Eriksson with Angelo Sormani after their 4-1 defeat to Milan last Sunday, went down 3-0 to Sampdoria in front of an angry crowd at their own Olympic stadium.

Torino added to relegated Udinese's woes with a hat-trick by their Dutch striker Willem Kieft after Udinese had opened the scoring early in the match.

Accidents continue to plague time trials

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The rash of accidents continued at the Indianapolis motor speedway as Rookie Ludwig Heimrath Jr. led qualifications and seven more cars were added to the field for the 71st Indianapolis 500.

Seventeen of the 33 positions in the tentative starting field now have been set with more time trials scheduled next weekend. Both Tom Sneva, the 1983 Indy winner, and George Snider escaped injury in crashes Sunday, which brought the number of such incidents to 13 since practice for the May 24 race opened on May 2.

Meanwhile, the second of four days of time trials went on at a slow pace, with Heimrath and Rich Vogler qualifying at the start of the six-hour session and five other drivers joining them in the tentative field during the final 90 minutes.

They joined 11 drivers, led by pole-winner Mario Andretti, who completed four-lap, 10-mile qualification runs on Saturday. Andretti won the pole with an average speed of 215.390 mph,

coming up with a fast lap of 216.320.

Both of those marks were shy of the records set last May by Rick Mears, when he posted a four-lap average of 216.828 mph and a single-lap record of 217.581.

Among the drivers still not in the race day lineup are Sneva, Kevin Cogan, who finished second last year, and Al Unser Jr. Heimrath, from Canada, came up with a solid 207.541 average in a cosworth-powered Lola, a car identical to the one put into the lineup Saturday by his teammate and car-owner, Dick Simon. Simon qualified at 209.960.

Sunday's other qualifiers were Vogler at 205.887, Rookie Jeff Macpherson 205.688, Scott Brayton 205.647, Geoff Brabham of Australia 205.503, Gary Bettenhausen 204.504 and Pancho Carter 203.781.

The average for the first 17 qualifiers is 207.591 mph.

Carter, who a week earlier took a 600-foot, upside-down ride, in his other 1987 March and was able to walk away without injury, was very disappointed with the

slow speed, much slower than the 207.471 by Dennis Firestone that was the slowest qualifying speed in 1986.

The major reason for the relatively slow speeds on the 2 1/2-mile oval, ironically, is the continuing warm, sunny weather. Rubber from the slick tires has been building up in the racing groove and the sun has been drawing oil from the rubber, contributing to a very slick surface.

Bettenhausen, who switched to a year-old March after spinning his 1987 March twice in practice — once Saturday and once Sunday — said: "It was a whole bunch looser, but we'll take it. After spinning in the '87 twice, I think somebody was trying to tell me something. I think we made the right decision."

Brayton joined Hemelgarn racing teammates Arlie Luyendyk of Holland, who qualified Saturday at 208.337, and Vogler, in the tentative field. Brayton has started the last five Indy 500s. "Sneva hit the first-run wall during a practice period Sunday morning. He crashed another new March on Friday.

5 soccer 'thugs' receive long jail sentences

LONDON (AP) — A three-month police investigation codenamed "Operation Own Goal" led Monday to long jail sentences for five English soccer thugs described by a judge as ruthless and vicious men "to whom violence appeared to be a way of life."

The two ringleaders, 24-year-old businessman Stephen Hick and 25-year-old clerk Terence Last, were each jailed for 10 years, organising a six-year reign of violence at matches.

In a week trial, three other men were imprisoned for years, respectively, for their activities with the mob.

The inner London Crown Court was told how undercover police infiltrated a gang of soccer thugs they suspected of being behind large-scale violence at matches.

Judge George Schindler said the five jailed were "some of the nastiest, most ruthless and most vicious men for whom violence appeared to be a way of life." He told Last, specifically: "You play for high stakes and now you have lost."

Police said the operation fo-

cused on a group of notoriously hostile Chelsea supporters. The idea to penetrate the gang came from sergeant Chris Hobbs, a former schoolteacher who played and coached soccer.

Hobbs devised a system whereby young policemen in plain clothes would get to know the gang members in bars and even travel with them to games.

By watching them, the officers were able to collect evidence against the ringleaders and by gaining their confidence, would discover their plans to cause trouble at matches.

used on a group of notoriously hostile Chelsea supporters. The idea to penetrate the gang came from sergeant Chris Hobbs, a former schoolteacher who played and coached soccer.

Hobbs devised a system whereby young policemen in plain clothes would get to know the gang members in bars and even travel with them to games.

By watching them, the officers were able to collect evidence against the ringleaders and by gaining their confidence, would discover their plans to cause trouble at matches.

Ajax and Cruyff set to revive Dutch glory years

ATHENS (R) — Johan Cruyff, the greatest player in Dutch soccer history, will be seeking more than a long-awaited European Cup Winners' Cup victory when his Ajax Amsterdam team meet Lokomotiv Leipzig here on Wednesday.

Cruyff, now technical director of the club he inspired to three successive triumphs in the Champions' Cup from 1971 to 1973, will be hoping for a stylish victory in keeping with his own soccer philosophy and a revival of the glory years of the Dutch game.

Throughout the 1970s Cruyff, Ajax and the Netherlands were synonymous with an unrivalled brand of artistic soccer dubbed "total football." Ajax dominated Europe and the Dutch national team reached two world cup finals without reward.

But Cruyff, now 40, is realistic enough to be aware that his new Ajax will not find it easy to match their predecessors. Leipzig, desperate to emerge from the shadows of East Germany's dominant club Dynamo Berlin, bring to Athens a team of solid defence and thrusting counter-attack, hoping to frustrate Ajax's attacking style and steal a decisive breakaway goal at the Olympic Stadium.

They hope to become the second East German side to win the trophy and coach Hans-Ulrich Thomaie has six internationals, including goalkeeper and international captain Rene Mueller, in his squad for the club's first European final.

But even their most carefully planned tactics, allied to a demonstration of the customary stamina and strength of East German soccer, are unlikely to overcome Ajax's blend of elegant experience and richly talented youth.

Midfielder Arnold Muhren, 35, who is struggling to get fit, and striker Marco Van Basten, 22, who joins AC Milan in Italy next season, will be particularly keen to mark their final European appearances for Ajax with a flourish at the start of a new winning era.

They joined 11 drivers, led by pole-winner Mario Andretti, who completed four-lap, 10-mile qualification runs on Saturday. Andretti won the pole with an average speed of 215.390 mph,

Swindell follows Clemens' example as pitching star

NEW YORK (AP) — Greg Swindell followed Roger Clemens as the pitching star at the University of Texas. He's starting to look like he may follow Clemens' example in the American League, too.

Just one year and 11 days after Clemens struck out 20 Seattle Mariners to set a major league single-game strikeout record, Swindell set a high for this year by fanning 15 Kansas City Royals Sunday as the Indians won 4-2.

Swindell went the distance, allowing 11 hits and walking two. In other American League games Sunday, it was Boston 7, California 0; New York 6, Minnesota 1; Cleveland 4, Kansas City 2; Detroit 7, Oakland 6; Baltimore 6, Chicago 4; Seattle 5, Milwaukee 1 and Texas 9, Toronto 8.

Sunday's victory left Swindell at 2-3 with a 3.86 earned run average and 54 strikeouts in 51 1-3 innings to tie for the all-strikout lead with Seattle's Mark Langston.

Rick Dempsey's two-run double in the second off Danny Jackson gave the Indians a 2-0 lead and the Royals tied it in the third on RBI singles by Juan Beniquez and Angel Salazar.

Joe Carter scored on one of third baseman Bill Pecota's two errors in the third and Pat Tabler's infield single drove home the fourth run in the fourth.

Red Sox 7, Angels 0. Bruce Hurst scattered five hits for his second consecutive shutout and third of the season and Mike Greenwell had a homer and four runs batted in for the Red Sox.

The Red Sox jumped on Don Sutton, 2-4, for seven hits and

five runs in the first three innings. Yankees 6, Twins 1.

Charles Hudson pitched a six-hitter and Gary Ward drove in three runs for the Yankees. The Yankees stole seven bases, including three by Rickey Henderson. Ward, Claudell Washington, Willie Randolph, and Wayne Tolleson also stole bases.

Tigers 7, Athletics 6. Darrell Evans' two-run eighth inning homer overcame a power display by Mark McGwire to lead the Tigers.

McGwire hit two home runs for Oakland, his ninth and 10th, his second two-homer game in three days.

Mariners 5, Brewers 1. Ken Phelps hit two home runs as the Mariners handed the Brewers their sixth straight loss.

Phelps had a solo homer in the first and a two-run shot in the fourth, giving him 10 for the season.

Orioles 6, White Sox 4. Terry Kennedy snapped a 0-14 slump with a tie-breaking seventh-inning home run and Fred Lynn added a three-run shot in the eighth as Baltimore beat Chicago.

Kennedy's homer broke a 2-2 tie, then Lynn's shot made it 6-2. Rangers 9, Blue Jays 8.

Bobby Witt survived a shaky start for his first victory of the season and Ruben Sierra drove in three runs as Texas rallied to beat Toronto.

The National League

Darryl Strawberry said, "there was no communication." Tim Lincecum said "the communication was fine."

New York Mets manager Dave Johnson wouldn't say. Strawberry, in right, and Teufel, at second, let a popup by Albert Hall drop between them with two out in the ninth inning, allowing the Atlanta Braves to beat the Mets 8-7 Sunday.

Hall's popup scored pinch-runner Randy O'Neal with the tying run, and Hall scored the winning run on a single by Rafael Ramirez, spoiling a six-run eighth inning that had given the defending world series champion Mets a 7-6 lead.

Afterwards the Mets manager said he wouldn't comment on the misplay by Teufel and Strawberry, but he did say: "I don't know if it's everybody got big raises or... (they're) basking in the glory. It's not important. Whatever it is, we're not playing baseball."

The victory allowed Atlanta to complete its first three-game sweep of the Mets since April 1983, and it gave the Mets an 0-10 record in weekend games this year. The loss dropped the Mets at least two games below .500, at 13-15, for the first time since Oct. 2, 1983.

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PLAZA

LES SPECIALISTES

Performances 2:30, 5:10, 9:00, 10:45

Cinema Tel: 622198

RAGHADAN

3:15

Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 9:45

مكتبة صندل

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Monday.

One Sterling	1.6670/80	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.3333/38	Canadian dollar
	1.7960/70	West German marks
	2.0250/60	Dutch guilders
	37.27/30	Swiss francs
	6.0000/50	Belgian francs
	129.91/00	French francs
	140.05/15	Italian lira
	16.257/2625	Japanese yen
	6.6750/6800	Swedish crown
	6.7450/7500	Norwegian crowns
		Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	453.80/453.30	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The U.K. equity market stood a few points off its earlier all time high in the wake of the long-awaited news that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has set a June 11 general election date.

Dealers said the slight downturn was inevitable following the recent heavy buying with the much as expected June 11 date coming as something of an anti-dimax.

At 1430 GMT the broadly based FTSE 100 index stood 48.4 points higher at 2,174.9 after an all time intra-day high of 2,183.9 while at the same time the F.T. 30 index had rallied 57.6 points to 1,696.3 after an intra-day high of 1,705.1.

The previous intra-day highs, set last Friday, for the FTSE 100 and F.T. 30 were 2,136.3 and 1,661.4 respectively.

Dealers said the strong possibility of a conservative election win, following recent opinion polls, has been drawing in overseas cash and the trend looks set to continue until June 11. Some analysts are forecasting that the FTSE 100 will move as high as 2,300 before the election.

The possibility of another 1/2 point reduction in U.K. base lending rates, on top of Friday's cut to nine per cent, will also help to underpin equities in the short term.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, MAY 12, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It's a good day to delve deeply into whatever problems may be facing you. You also find it possible to come to a new meeting of the minds where emotions are concerned.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You have much charm and can use it wisely so that you handle practical interests more efficiently.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Have a talk with a sensible person about the advice an expert has given you. It may make you more affluent.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Do your work in such a manner that you get the approval of a bigwig. Don't be too anxious to gain your own way.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Confidentially go after the backing you need from an important person. Have fun with your mate tonight.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Have meetings at home with those whose aims are similar to your own. Discussions can prove very enlightening.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Contact those you deal with daily and plan for expansion. Start the day early to use your best cleverness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) The material side of life is important to you now. You need the assistance of an outside associate to make arrangements.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Find a new outlet that can give you greater income in the days ahead. Be willing to introduce co-workers.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get together with an expert in private and learn how to become more popular at social affairs.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Listen to the suggestions of a good friend for improving your daily activities. Be more practical.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get your talents across in public and become more successful. Go out with your mate tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study some new situation that can spell more security for you. Get good results now.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will be one of those unusual young persons who will want to finish whatever he, or she, starts. This one will have a most cheerful attitude and will like to have a good time. Great success is possible here if this child learns to overcome prejudices.

U.S. urges West to build oil stocks

PARIS (R) — The United States Monday urged its Western allies to maintain sufficient oil stocks to guard against any future energy crisis caused by over-dependence on OPEC crude.

U.S. Energy Secretary John Herrington told ministers at an International Energy Agency (IEA) conference that oil price shocks such as those of the 1970s could damage economic prosperity, national security and weaken foreign policy.

"A credible strategic oil stockpile serves as a deterrent to those who might be tempted to use oil as a political weapon," he said, in what delegates said was a reference to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

He said stocks held by the IEA as a whole were sufficient for 90 days, the goal originally set by the IEA, which was set up by Western governments in 1974 after the disruption caused by the Arab oil embargo.

But not all stocks would be immediately available in the event of a major disruption and some of the IEA's 21 members "do not even meet the 90-day requirement," he said.

Mr. Herrington named no countries.

According to a Reuters survey last month, North Sea oil producer Britain had around 75 days of stocks while French crude stocks at the start of the year amounted to about 22 days of normal supply.

"We must avoid complacency or the appearance of inaction that would send an erroneous signal to those who would manipulate the market for economic or political gain," Mr. Herrington said.

"Now is the time for other IEA countries to do more in taking their fair share of building strategic stocks," he added.

He pointed out that the United States, the IEA's biggest producer and consumer of energy, had built up a government stockpile of about 100 days of oil supplies.

The one-day conference was devoted to reviewing the group's preparedness against any future energy crisis like the fourfold price increase of the 1970s which plunged the industrialised world into economic recession.

Since the IEA last met in 1985, oil prices have fallen from more than \$30 a barrel to around \$18 as OPEC struggled to define production and pricing policy.

Washington is concerned that lower OPEC prices, in effect since last December, will make the West over-reliant on crude from the group, especially from the politically volatile Gulf region.

It is also concerned that lower prices will dry up investment in new oil wells outside the OPEC region.

Mr. Herrington warned IEA states against cooperation with the group — only Norway in the group has agreed to cut production to support OPEC efforts to stabilise prices.

Attempts to fix prices by producers, consumers or both acting jointly will exacerbate the instability they seek to prevent.

Oman plans to operate stock exchange this year

MUSCAT (Agencies) — Oman will open a stock exchange this year, Commerce and Industry Undersecretary Ahmad Ibn Abdul Nabi Macki said Sunday.

Participation will be initially limited to Omani companies, he said before leaving for Riyadh, Saudi Arabia's capital, to attend a meeting of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

GCC-based companies could be invited to participate later, government sources said.

The GCC groups Oman with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates in a regional defence and economic alliance.

Among GCC members, only Kuwait has an operational stock exchange, recently revived after a crash in 1982 because of \$96 billion worth of post-dated bad checks.

The other GCC member countries allows dealings in shares, but have no official stock exchanges.

Sheikh Macki said the Oman's ministry of commerce and industry has been examining aspects of operating the planned exchange with international consultants.

Official sources noted that the exchange is aimed at stimulating the economy by encouraging greater private sector productivity and competition.

Meanwhile, Oman's commerce

and industry minister has attacked lack of progress by Gulf Arab states in unifying industrial incentives ahead of meetings in Riyadh to discuss commercial and industrial cooperation.

The minister, Colonel Saleh Ibn Abdullah Al Ghazali, was quoted in the government-owned press as saying the six GCC member states had agreed on uniform industrial incentives at a summit meeting in Abu Dhabi last November.

But Colonel Ghazali said there was a lack of commitment to implement the Abu Dhabi decision. He warned that Oman would not hesitate to protect its own industries if the agreement was not enforced by next March, when Oman's official exemption ends.

Incentives offered by GCC states to their industries include cheap power and water, subsidised plant and factories, and low-cost or interest-free government loans.

Colonel Ghazali said Oman wanted to see unified incentives applied throughout the group to bring about equal competition.

He said Oman wanted to move its economy away from reliance on oil revenue and would protect its own industry to further its aim of diversification. Oil accounted for 93 per cent of export revenue in 1985.

Pressure builds on Fed

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the value of the U.S. dollar continues to erode in international markets, pressure is building on the Federal Reserve (Fed) to nudge up interest rates.

Such action might help brake the dollar's relentless fall and prevent what Fed Chairman Paul Volcker and many economists have long feared — a "free fall" of the dollar, a plunge that can't be reversed short of a recession.

The Fed, the nation's central bank, is widely expected by economists to act soon — possibly this week — to boost its "discount rate," the fee it charges for loans to banks and other financial institutions. The rate, at 5.5 per cent since last August, has not been increased in more than a year.

Earlier this month, commercial banks raised their prime rate — for loans to their most creditworthy customers — from 7.5 per cent to eight per cent. And, on Friday, the Veterans Administration (V.A.) increased the rate on V.A. mortgage loans from 9.5 per cent to 10 per cent.

Since these and other rates have been heading up on their own, the Fed's raising of the discount rate might not trigger a major new round of interest rate hikes. But it could send an important signal to financial markets that the Fed is serious about propping up the dollar, analysts suggested.

Higher U.S. interest rates could lure more foreign investors into putting their money in U.S. financial investments, which in turn would help strengthen the dollar.

Still, some economists suggest that the dollar, if not already in

the dreaded free fall, is verging on one — and could drop another 15 per cent to 20 per cent before bottoming out.

What would be the effect on consumers and the economy of a free fall of the dollar? With a cheaper dollar comes the threat of higher inflation, higher interest rates — and, if the cycle continues, a recession.

U.S. tourists already have felt the effect directly as the value of their dollars decline almost daily. The dollar's slide is also making it much more expensive for the defence department to maintain U.S. troops and installations overseas.

Meanwhile, the United States is becoming one of the world's best tourist bargains for the Japanese and Europeans.

The weakening dollar is also making foreign goods more expensive — from Japanese automobiles to French cognac.

To be sure, part of this comes as energy prices rebound from their 1986 collapse. But energy costs are fading as a factor and higher import prices becoming more prevalent — showing up first in consumer electronics, new cars, home furnishings and apparel.

Japanese and European producers still haven't raised their prices as much as the roughly 50 per cent the dollar has fallen since mid-1985.

"The dollar impact is beginning to show and can only build over time," said Mr. Allen Sinai, chief economist for Shearson Lehman Brothers Inc. "The process now is self-feeding and circular, and dangerous and unknown in its implications for the dollar, inflation and the financial markets."

Egypt authorises limited free exchange market

CAIRO (R) — Egypt Monday authorised banks to fix a daily exchange rate for its currency, the pound, as part of a standby credits deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

But it retained government rates for some purposes. Economy Minister Youssef Moustapha, announcing the measures, said they were a start towards a unified single rate "over maybe a year, maybe more."

The government set up a committee of eight commercial banks, which was due to set its first rate for the pound against the U.S. dollar later in the day. The committee will fix a rate daily.

The government's announcement, aimed at what Mr. Moustapha called "gradual unification," was part of an economic reform package which will secure Egypt \$300 million in IMF credits.

It will also pave the way for Egypt to reschedule its \$38.6 billion of foreign debts, mainly to Western governments.

The IMF executive board is to meet in Washington on May 15 to approve the arrangements and Egypt's case for rescheduling is due to come up at a meeting of the informal Paris Club of Western creditor governments starting

on May 18.

Mr. Moustapha told a news conference the daily rate to be fixed by the banks' committee would apply to remittances by Egyptians working abroad — a major source of hard currency — tourism revenue, commercial banks' purchases of foreign currency and some export revenue.

He said 40 per cent of imports "of the type that would not cause too heavy a burden on consumers" would be calculated at the new exchange rate.

Brokers in the existing free market, which is technically illegal but tolerated by the government, stopped buying dollars Monday as they waited to see what rates the banks would set.

Saudi oil revenue declines

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia's oil revenues dropped 27.7 per cent to \$7.7 billion in the Islamic year that ended March 1, 1986, the Saudi Monetary Agency reported Sunday.

The agency's annual report, submitted to King Fahd Saturday, said that the kingdom, the world's largest oil exporter, ran a \$13.4 billion deficit for the period.

The report showed that overall revenues fell sharply for that year, 1406 in the Islamic calendar.

Revenues from non-oil sources, including the agency's investment of foreign reserves, dropped 12.6 per cent, the report said.

The Saudi Press Agency, which published the report, did not disclose the value of this revenue or the total of reserves, officially pegged in early 1985 at more than \$100 billion.

Total government revenue totalled 131.5 billion riyals (\$35 billion), the monetary agency said.

Government spending fell 16.1 per cent to 181.5 billion (\$48.4 billion), it added.

Spending last year remains a mystery because the Saudis did not publish a budget for that period since oil revenues were too unpredictable amid falling oil prices.

Saudi oil production had also dipped then to less than two million barrels a day from a high

of more than 11 million.

The kingdom's latest budget was finally issued Dec. 30 after the government switched from calculating it according to the lunar Islamic calendar to the Gregorian solar year. The monetary agency's annual reports are always issued a year late.

The report showed that government expenditure accounted for 64.2 per cent of gross domestic product, even though there was a 16.1 per cent decline in spending.

Saudi Arabia has been inflation-free for several years. In the previous year, the cost of living fell 0.2 per cent, less than in previous years.

But drops in prices and rents have bottomed out, the report showed, with prices falling 3.5 per cent.

This was offset by a 3.3 per cent drop in wages as the private and public sectors cut costs. The wages of some 3 million workers dropped further, diplomats said.

In non-oil sectors, agriculture grew 13 per cent, while manufacturing, including refining, only rose two per cent. The construction sector declined 20 per cent due to completion of major infrastructure projects.

The report showed that Saudi Arabia still maintained a favourable balance of trade of 24 billion riyals (\$6.4 billion), but recorded a deficit in services and transfers of 67 billion riyals (\$17.9 billion).

The total balance of payments improved, narrowing the pre-

vious year's deficit of 3.1 billion riyals (\$8.2 billion) to 24 billion riyals (\$6.4 billion).

Imports declined 14 per cent, but non-oil exports grew 36 per cent, the report showed.

Exports of fertilisers rose 32 per cent and petrochemicals 68 per cent because new plants built as joint ventures with the state-owned Saudi Basic Industries Corp. (SABIC) and foreign firms were activated.

Industrial production rose, with SABIC having 13 projects in operation in 1986 and two others under construction, along with the expansion of other plants.

Refining grew 11.8 per cent over the 162.2 million-barrel throughput the previous year, the report said.

Some 3,400 industrial licences with investment totalling 135.6 billion riyals (\$36.2 billion) were listed.

Of these, 1,864 industrial plants with an investment of 59.8 billion riyals (\$15.9 billion) were in operation.

Another 393 plants, with an authorised capital of 29.7 billion riyals (\$7.92 billion), have been established with foreign partners. These include SABIC plants.

Agricultural production rose 46 per cent in the kingdom where subsidies are worth many times the world price for wheat.

The report said more than two million tonnes of wheat were harvested, leading to exports last year to countries including Bahrain, Egypt and Pakistan.

Canadian goldmining firms plan merger

TORONTO (R) — Three of Canada's largest goldmining firms, agreed in principle last week to a merger that would create North America's biggest goldmining company.

Three, Dome Mines Ltd., Campbell Red Lake Mines Ltd. and Placer Development Ltd., had a combined 1986 gold production of about 825,000 ounces, and the merged company would be one of the world's most important gold producers outside South Africa and the Soviet Union.

The companies said in a statement that they would merge

through a share swap, subject to a definitive agreement and shareholder and regulatory approval.

Placer shareholders would own about 45 per cent of the new concern, Dome Mines 37 per cent and the rest would go to Campbell shareholders.

Analysts speculated that the merger might have been motivated by a desire to create a company large enough to withstand any unwanted takeover suit.

They noted that Dome Mines has been a particular target of takeover speculation since the

financially troubled energy concern Dome Petroleum confirmed earlier this year that it was willing to sell its 21.5 per cent stake in the company.

Under the terms of the merger agreement, that stake in Dome Mines would decline to about 7.5 per cent of the newly-created concern.

Gold stocks have also risen sharply on the Toronto Stock Exchange so far this year along with the price of gold, which has been helped by worries about inflation fuelled by the falling U.S. dollar.

THE Daily Crossword by Stanley B. Whitman

ACROSS

- 1 Military rank
- 2 Ship
- 3 Word
- 4 Word
- 5 Word
- 6 "I'm in Your..."
- 7 See 46 A
- 8 Word
- 9 "Cuddly..."
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Yesterday's Puzzle Subject:

1. Repair	2. Pains	3. Anna
4. Ate	5. Epic	6. Amity
7. Ruler	8. Madia	9. Rave
10. Exposure	11. Oppose	12. Oppose
13. Perv	14. Aren	15. Aren
16. Racket	17. Racket	18. Racket
19. Racket	20. Racket	21. Racket
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37. Racket	38. Racket	39. Racket
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100. Racket		

Peanuts



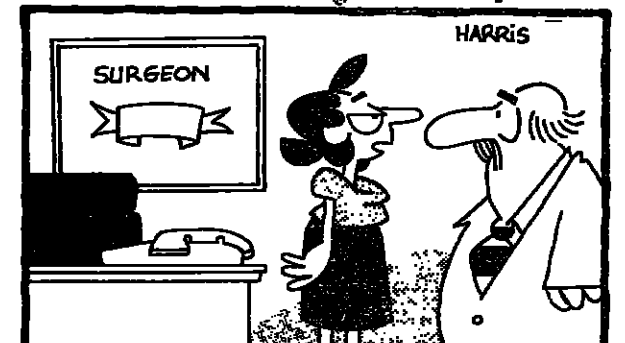
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

India reportedly ready to squash Punjab violence

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government is considering a federal takeover of the northern state of Punjab following the latest wave of Sikh terrorist attacks, Indian newspapers reported Monday.

At least 17 people were killed during the weekend in the violence-torn state, 13 of them civilians, in attacks blamed on Sikh radicals fighting for a separate Sikh nation.

In addition to the 13 civilian deaths during the weekend, four Sikh militants were killed in two battles with police in Amritsar district. The United News of India (UNI) news agency reported that two other militants were killed and three police injured early Monday in a battle near the industrial city of Ludhiana in central Punjab.

The killings sparked criticism of the government Monday in parliament by members of opposition parties as well as Mr. Gandhi's Congress Party.

Arif Mohammad Khan, a Congress Party member, said the government had "a moral responsibility to intervene when the situation is deteriorating in Punjab."

Home Minister Buta Singh, whose ministry is responsible for national security, agreed the situation was "fast deteriorating." But he assured the members of parliament that the government was watching the situation closely.

"The government will not run away from discharging its moral

and constitutional duty to protect the life and property of the people of Punjab," he said.

Three Indian newspapers reported Monday that Mr. Gandhi's government was preparing to become more involved in Punjab.

The pro-government Hindustan Times said the government had decided to impose federal rule in Punjab and dismiss the state government of moderate Sikh Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala.

The Indian Express, the country's largest English-language newspaper, said an announcement of federal takeover was possible in the next few days. It cited a statement demanding Mr. Barnala's ouster signed by members of Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party from Punjab.

The independent Times of India quoted sources in the Home Ministry as saying the government would intervene, but had not decided what specific action to take.

The petition for Mr. Barnala's ouster was signed Sunday by eight Congress (I) Party members of parliament. They accused members of Mr. Barnala's government of protecting the Sikh radicals.

Mr. Barnala's Akali Dal Party

won a majority in the state assembly in elections in 1985. The party since has split, and Mr. Barnala's moderate faction remains in power with the backing of Congress Party members in the assembly.

The talk of a federal takeover in Punjab comes after well-publicized disagreements between a chief Barnala aide and Punjab police chief Julius F. Ribeiro, who has Mr. Gandhi's support.

Balwant Singh, the state finance minister, has accused Ribeiro of acting over the head of the state government. Ribeiro, in turn, has accused Balwant Singh of trying to protect known militants from his own district in Punjab.

Sikhs, whose religion is an offshoot of Hinduism, are a majority in Punjab, but make up only 2 per cent of India's total population of 780 million.

Goa becomes 25th state

In a separate development the former Portuguese territory of Goa won approval Monday to become the 25th state in the union of India.

Goa, a popular resort on India's western coast, has been administered as a union territory since Indian troops took it from Portugal in 1961.

The Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament) unanimously passed a bill conferring statehood on the tiny territory of 1.1 million people, which has been hit by language riots.

Shultz: U.S. will benefit from nuclear pact

NEW YORK (R) — The United States would benefit from a U.S.-Soviet agreement along the lines of one being negotiated to limit intermediate-range nuclear missiles, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz says.

In an article published Sunday in Time magazine, Mr. Shultz responded to criticism by former President Richard Nixon and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger over such an agreement, which President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev are expected to sign at a summit meeting later this year.

"Former President Nixon and former Secretary of State Kissinger are concerned that (the elimination of intermediate-range nuclear missiles from Europe) would render our overall deterrent capabilities more vulnerable," Mr. Shultz wrote.

"Others have expressed concern that it would lead to the denuclearisation of Europe or the decoupling of the United States from its security commitments to the continent," he said. "These are unwarranted objections of Soviet policy. We are not going to accede to them."

"But it is not necessary to abandon the quest for nuclear arms cuts to defeat these Soviet aims."

Perle quits as assistant defence secretary

WASHINGTON (AP) — Richard Perle, known internationally as the "prince of darkness" for his hostility to arms deals that he says favour the Kremlin, leaves his job as assistant secretary of defence with a sense of mission accomplished.

Mr. Perle, 45, a rumpled, plumpish man who delivers hard words in a soft voice, cleared out his Pentagon office on Friday. But he is not giving up and is not going far.

For the time being, he will be a Pentagon consultant, helping his handpicked successor, Frank J. Gaffney Jr., nurture the expected deal to eliminate U.S. and Soviet medium-range missiles from Europe, a treaty which he says will set the standard for future arms control agreements.

Mr. Perle will keep an office at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative Washington think tank.

It will involve a combative assistant secretary of defence "among others," he said in an interview Thursday.

"It is really about a struggle for the president's soul. He is being urged by his secretary of state to pursue a policy of détente and by his secretary of defence to reject the policy of détente," Mr. Perle said.

Polls show majority disapprove of media coverage of Hart's meeting

NEW YORK (Agencies) — About two-thirds of those polled by Newsweek and Time expressed disapproval of media coverage of Gary Hart's meetings with Donna Rice, the magazines reported Sunday.

Newsweek reported that 64 per cent of those polled said the media have been unfair in its "treatment of marital infidelity charges against" Mr. Hart, while 22 per cent said coverage was fair.

In the Time poll, 67 per cent said it is wrong for the press to write stories about the sex life of a presidential candidate and 27 per cent said it was right.

Meanwhile, a Los Angeles Times poll found that 41 per cent of those surveyed had a less favourable impression of the news media than before the Hart incident, while 9 per cent had a more favourable impression.

The Newsweek poll by the Gallup Organisation of 812 adults Wednesday and Thursday showed that 52 per cent felt candidates' private lives should be off-limits, while 42 per cent said private lives are a good thing to investigate.

Newsweek said 37 per cent of those likely to vote for a Democrat are undecided about which candidate to support, though the Rev. Jesse Jackson led the pack with 22 per cent. Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis received 11 per cent and Illinois Senator Paul Simon 9 per cent.

Time magazine's poll of 750 adults Thursday night by Yankelovich Clancy Shulman showed that without Mr. Hart in the field, Mario Cuomo received 20 per cent, Jackson 11 per cent, Bill

Freed Swiss Red Cross worker back in Manila

MANILA (R) — A Swiss Red Cross worker freed Sunday by Muslim kidnappers in the southern Philippines returned to a subdued welcome in Manila and said he had been treated fairly in captivity.

Wearing an open-necked shirt, Alex Braunwalder looked like an average tourist as he stepped off a Philippines Airlines plane Monday but stole centre stage from several prominent politicians returning to the capital after casting their votes in congressional elections.

Mr. Braunwalder, 30, and his Filipina wife Editha hugged and kissed on the tarmac before they were hustled out of the airport by officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

"I was treated fairly by my kidnappers," Mr. Braunwalder told Reuters.

"I don't have any complaints. I don't want to say anything more now. I want to get some rest."

A second Swiss national, Jacky Sudan, is still being held by the kidnappers in Butig, Lanao Del Sur province, on the southern island Mindanao.

"Anything we say at this stage might jeopardise the negotiations

for Jacky's release," Red Cross spokesman Pierre De La Coste told Reuters.

Mr. Braunwalder was released unconditionally, although the kidnappers had originally demanded a ransom of \$25,000.

Mr. De La Coste said the Red Cross chief in Mindanao Henri Fournier, was returning to the region Tuesday to continue his efforts to release Sudan.

He said he did not know the identity of the kidnappers.

"There are many family and tribal rivalries in that region," he said. "What we are certain about is that the kidnappers do not belong to any of the major Muslim guerrilla groups."

Earlier, Lanao Del Sur Governor Tarkata Lucman told reporters at a news conference in Cagayan De Oro city she expected Sudan to be released Tuesday.

Mr. Braunwalder told reporters he was separated from Sudan three days after the two men and five Filipina nurses were seized last Tuesday as they returned to Marawi city from a nearby village where they had been distributing relief supplies. The nurses were freed on Thursday.

Longest surviving heart transplant recipient dies

MARSEILLE, France (AP) — Emmanuel Vitria, who was the world's longest surviving heart transplant recipient, died early Monday after living for 18 years with the heart of a young sailor, hospital officials said. He was 67.

Vitria died at Salvator Hospital of respiratory problems brought on by a heart problem, said his doctor, Jean-Raoul Monties.

Monties said Vitria was surrounded by his family when he died.

Monties was part of the team that performed the heart transplant on Nov. 27, 1968, giving Vitria the heart of a 20-year-old sailor killed in an accident. Dr. Edmond Henri, who headed the transplant team, since has died of a heart attack.

Vitria entered Salvator Hospital on April 27 suffering from respiratory problems.

Monties said it was not yet

clear what provoked the crisis, but added, "for several months, we have thought he was at the end of his voyage."

For the past 18 and-a-half years, Vitria received check-ups every two weeks, but led an active life, staying in shape by exercising and swimming.

Speaking of his longevity following the heart transplant, Vitria once said: "It is perhaps because I have a passion for life and that I have slammed the door on death."

Until his death, his transplanted heart never was the source of serious medical problems.

Vitria was given the heart after suffering what doctors called a post-traumatic aneurism, or breaking of a blood vessel.

At the time of Vitria's transplant in 1968, it was the ninth in the world and the second performed in France.

IBM reports breakthrough in use of superconductivity

NEW YORK (AP) — Researchers at the IBM company say they have eliminated a big obstacle to widespread use of superconductors, the materials that lose all resistance to electricity below a certain temperature.

IBM said scientists at its research centre demonstrated that superconductors are capable of carrying more than 100,000 amperes of current per square centimetre at the temperature of liquid nitrogen, which is 77 degrees Kelvin or 320 degrees below zero Fahrenheit.

That is 100 times the current of superconductors previously believed capable and enough for almost any use except supercompact computer chips, the company said.

"I am confident, given what we've done so far, that we'll get there, too," said Praveen Chaudhari, vice president for science at International Business Machines Corp.

The researchers achieved the results by laying a thin film of ordinary superconducting material in the form of a single crystal onto the surface of another crystal. The film was condensed from a vapour and was just one micron thick, about one one-hundredth the thickness of a human hair.

"The key was to crystallise the film so it would follow the crystal structure," said the underlying material, Chaudhari said.

Saturday at 8:40 p.m.

But Mr. Hart, his friend William Broadhurst and part-time actress Donna Rice have said they joined their friend Lynn Armand for a Saturday afternoon drive around Washington.

The Herald reported Sunday that photographer Brian Smith saw people outside the townhouse Saturday afternoon but concluded it was a "false alarm" because he didn't spot a woman with blond hair. Rice has blond hair.

Broadhurst and Rice have said she and Armand spent Saturday night at Broadhurst's house and Rice walked to Sen. Hart's house before noon Saturday. Broadhurst said he drove to Mr. Hart's house and double-parked shortly after noon to begin the afternoon drive.

The newspaper said Smith returned to Miami on Thursday and read Broadhurst's statement for the first time, recalling that he had seen a maroon car double park at Mr. Hart's house between 2 and 4 p.m.

Smith, who said his view partially blocked, recalled seeing two men and one woman near the double-parked car, but no blonde.

Smith followed a maroon car to a nearby church and saw a man and a woman get out. The photographer didn't recognise either one and told other Herald staffers that the incident had been a false alarm.

But when he developed his film Smith noticed for the first time that there were two maroon vehicles involved. Smith realised he had followed the wrong one.

COLUMNS 768

Baby born in polling station

CEBU, Philippines (R) — Teresita Collantes did more than vote in Monday's Philippine election — she gave birth in the polling station. Teachers assigned to supervise voting helped the 21-year-old housewife deliver a three kilogramme boy, her first child. Mrs. Collantes, wife of a pedicab driver, gave birth as she was leaving the polling centre outside this central Philippine city. "I felt labour pains and knew that I was going to give birth. They (the teachers) made me lie down on some tables and helped in the delivery," Mrs. Collantes told reporters.

U.S. prison population reaches 546,659

WASHINGTON (R) — The number of prisoners in the United States rose by nearly nine per cent last year to a record 546,659 inmates, the Justice Department has reported. The Bureau of Justice Statistics, the department's information gathering arm, said the increase of more than 43,000 inmates last year was the second biggest jump in the 60-year history of its prison statistics programme. Since 1980, the nation's prison population has grown by almost 66 per cent, adding 217,000 prisoners and causing severe overcrowding. There were 26,610 women imprisoned at the end of 1986, a 15 per cent increase from the year-ago level.

6 police hurt as soccer fans brawl

MELBOURNE (R) — Six police were injured and 10 soccer fans arrested when about 800 rival supporters brawled after an Australian league match, police said Monday. Sporadic fighting during Sunday's game between Footscray and League leaders Sydney Croatia erupted into running battles as fans left the ground after the 0-0 draw. None of the six police was detained in hospital after being treated for their injuries. Those arrested were charged with assault, resisting arrest and being drunk and disorderly.

Chinese peasants drown themselves

PEKING (R) — Six peasants who joined a "sacred sect" drowned themselves in a river in east China when a magic boat failed to arrive to take them to paradise, an official newspaper reported. The Anhui Daily said a seventh was rescued by fishermen. The paper said the peasants, from Lixin County in Anhui province, were recruited by Sun Yingpeng, a local man who said he was looking for a select band to travel to paradise. The group sang and danced at the river's edge waiting for the magic boat. When it did not arrive, they walked into the water. The only survivor, Hong Yinglao, whose husband and daughter-in-law were among the drowned, said later: "I won't do this kind of thing again."

Jilted policeman burns girlfriend's home

HONG KONG (R) — A Hong Kong policeman was sentenced to three years in jail Monday for burning down his girlfriend's house after his marriage proposal was rejected. Chung Wah Keung, 23, was convicted of arson for starting a blaze that badly burned the woman's father and brother last December, court officials said.

Trains hit car left on rail track

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Two trains ploughed into a car deliberately pushed on to railway lines in a suburb south of Sydney on Sunday, the State Rail Authority said. There were no injuries. SRA Chief Executive Pat Johnson said vandals had pushed the car on the track. He said the prank could have resulted in a major disaster. Johnson said the car was hit almost simultaneously by a Sydney-bound train packed with hundreds of passengers and another headed for the New South Wales coast. Repair crews spent three hours clearing the wreckage of the car, which became wedged underneath the two trains.

Photos show Hitler in relaxed setting

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (AP) — The Vindicator newspaper in Youngstown on Sunday printed a series of photographs of Adolf Hitler. Hermann Goering and friends, believed to have been taken at Hitler's residence in the Bavarian mountains in 1933 and never before published. The newspaper said it obtained the photos from a roll of 35 mm film that an American tank commander from Youngstown, Paul N. Romack, found in a desk drawer in May 1945 and later shipped home. "The overwhelming weight of the international evidence in the photographs suggest... that they were taken in and around Hitler's residence, then still known as Haus Wachenfeld, over a period of perhaps several days during the summer of 1933 — six months after Hitler came to power," Dr. Charles W. Sydnor Jr. wrote in a copyright article that accompanied the photos. Sydnor is president of Emory and Henry College in Emory, Virginia, and a recognised authority on the Hitler years. Sydnor said the "Hermann Goering, outfitted in white in what may be yachtman's attire, is obviously shimmer and less ravaged by dissipation, excess and the indulgences of power and high living that are captured unmistakably in the later photographs of him as the obese, bloated chief of the Luftwaffe, clad invariably in the resplendent air force uniforms he designed for himself as reichsmarschal." He said the photos represent what "a rare and exceptionally revealing glimpse — close up — of Adolf Hitler and a group of his advisers and guests, in the images of relaxed informality." Others identified in the pictures include Wilhelm Brueckner, Hitler's adjutant; Johanna Wolff, Hitler's secretary; and Julius Schreck, one of Hitler's early political associates.

AIDS deaths pass 20,000 mark in U.S.

ATLANTA (R) — Deaths from acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) have passed the 20,000 mark in the United States, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has reported. It said that by Monday, the total number of deaths from AIDS had reached 20,342. More than 38,900 people in the United States have been diagnosed as having the disease. The CDC reported that new cases of AIDS are increasing at a rate faster than the death toll. In the past two weeks, 431 new cases had been reported, bringing the total for the year so far to 6,186.

Israeli army might phase out 'Golds' shoes

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's army may phase out "Golds" shoes, the sturdy lace-up work shoes favoured by former Prime Minister Golda Meir and supplied to female soldiers since the founding of the state, army officials have said. Most female soldiers consider the heavy, ankle-high shoes too unfashionable and toss them to the back of their closets, preferring instead to wear their own sandals, tennis shoes or dress shoes along with their light beige or dark green army uniforms. The army is considering either changing the decades-old design of the shoes or giving female soldiers an allowance to buy their own footwear, said a military official who, in keeping with army regulations, spoke on condition of anonymity. The official said she did not know when a final decision would be made, but the Jerusalem Post newspaper said the army already has cancelled an order for thousands of pairs of Golds shoes. It quoted a study as indicating most female soldiers dislike the Golds shoes and about 90 per cent of them were hardly used. "They are ugly and heavy," Prime Minister Golda Meir's daughter, Miriam, told a reporter Sunday. She said only very few of her colleagues wore the Golds shoes. The army shows female soldiers to buy their own footwear, but specifies that the shoes must be black, flat and have laces. Soldiers who violate those regulations face fines. Prima, who would not give her last name, said she was once fined 15 shekels (About \$10) for wearing open-toed black sandals, the type she wore Sunday.

Jakarta calls off search as landslide toll tops 132

JAKARTA (R) — As the death toll reached 132, exhausted Indonesian army and civilian rescue teams Monday called off the search for bodies engulfed by a landslide that hit a quarrying village a week ago.

Government officials contacted by Reuters by telephone at the disaster site in west Sumatra said rescue teams had abandoned the search, although families of the victims were continuing to dig for lost relatives.

Amnesty urges Guatemala to start human rights probe

LONDON (AP) — The civilian government of Guatemala should investigate tens of thousands of atrocities committed under its military predecessors, Amnesty International has said.

It said killings and abductions continued in the Central American country.

"A government cannot expect to ensure respect for human rights until it has rooted out the torturers and killers from its security forces," the organisation said in a new report.

The Nobel Peace Prize-winning

They said the death toll at the limestone quarry complex at Koto Panjang, around 450 kilometres south-west of Singapore, was now put at 132, including three people who died in hospital on Friday.

Relatives protested after West Sumatra Governor Azwar Anas ordered the search operation ended on Saturday, after many corpses discovered were found to be in an extreme state of decomposition.

The China News Service said experts had gone to the disaster region near the Soviet border but had said the conditions were not yet right to trigger a cloudburst. It gave no further details.

Artificial rain, released by aircraft dropping chemicals on to clouds, is usually to alleviate droughts.

The agency said hoped-for snow had fallen on the burning forests of Mohe county and other affected areas in Heilongjiang province Sunday but had not been enough to dampen the flames.

It quoted local officials as saying the fires, which have injured 102 people, were still only partly under control Monday.

The China Daily reported that three firebreaks up to 50 kilometres long were being cleared to contain the flames, which are burning over an area of 3,000 square kilometres.

It said an oil leak from a bush-cutting machine in Gulian forest was a suspected cause of the blaze last Wednesday. The flames, fanned by strong winds, quickly engulfed Xilinjihe, a town of 20,000 people.

The firefighting effort has concentrated on protecting the town of Tahe, with 100,000 inhabitants. China's national radio Sunday night said the flames had been halted 30 kilometres from the town.

An official said air force planes and 15,000 people were now involved in the firefighting operation.

More than 27,000 people from Xilinjihe and Tugiang have been evacuated by train into neighbouring inner Mongolia. An army official said low visibility had hampered air drops of about 450 tonnes of food, medical supplies and clothing to the stricken areas.

On the Yangtze River in east China, more than 30 vessels were searching for 37 passengers missing after a ferry was in collision with a tugboat and capsized on Friday, the New China News Agency said.

The Agency said 62 bodies had been recovered so far.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

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DEAR MR. GOREN

Q.—When my right-hand opponent redoubles after my partner's takeout double, I'm all at sea. When should I bid and when not? And how do I decide what to bid? — K.G., Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

A.—If everybody is being honest, you can have little or nothing in the way of high cards. Even if they are minimum, opener should have about 11 points in high cards, partner has about the same for his takeout double, and the redoubler must be in double figures for his action. So even if no one has much to spare, partner will be lucky to find you with as many as 6 points.

Therefore, it is not your hand, and your concern must be to get out of the auction as painlessly as possible. To see how you should act, let's consider a couple of hands you might have after your left-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond, partner doubles and the next hand redoubles:

A. ♠xxx ♣xxx ♦xxx ♠xxx
B. ♠xxx ♣xxx ♦xxx ♠xxx

There is no need to take any action with the first example. When the bidding gets back to your partner, he will bid his best suit and you will have reasonable support for him. You will have at least a seven-card combined trump suit in whichever suit partner happens to

choose, and you will surely still be at the one-level.

Hand B is different. Should you pass, partner might bid one spade. Now if the opponents start doubling, you will have to go to the two-level in clubs in search of a better fit, and you are a level higher than you want to be.

The solution to this dilemma is to bid one heart. Partner knows you do not have much, so there is no need to worry about his getting over-enthusiased because you showed some signs of life.

Q.—In a recent column you mentioned Strong Pass systems. What is that all about? — G.N., Miami, Fla.

A.—Don't concern yourself with it. They are highly artificial methods which require an opening bid on hands within the 0-11 point range and a pass on hands which you or I would consider to be a normal opening bid.

These methods are difficult to play against because they disrupt the normal flow of the bidding. For example, in standard methods you can expect your side to get to open the bidding about half the time. Strong Passers open three-quarters of the hands, so you are on the defensive right from the start.